

□ WRITING PIECE 1 - FEEDBACK

Section 1:

#1 "She felt the ridges of the map she was carving and wondered if the storms below still whispered secrets to those who dared listen." Strengths:

- Strong sensory detail through tactile description of map carving
- Effective use of personification with storms whispering secrets

Weakness: Limited context in opening → Your opening line, while poetic, leaves readers uncertain about the setting and situation. The mention of "storms below" needs more grounding to help readers understand the physical space your character occupies.

Exemplar: *She traced the ridges of the wooden map beneath her fingers, gazing down at the storm-laden valley where nature's secrets echoed through the rain-soaked air.*

#2 "Emma Jones, a world-renowned scientist turned cartographer, stared at the rain pounding the earth, tracing the edge of her badge." Strengths:

- Clear character introduction with background
- Good blend of action and character detail

Weakness: Underdeveloped character transition → Your shift from scientist to cartographer needs more depth. The badge detail feels disconnected without showing how these roles connect to Emma's journey.

Exemplar: *Emma Jones studied the rain through a scientist's eyes, her fingers absently tracing the badge that marked her bold transition from laboratory research to cartography.*

#3 "The map before her symbolised a world she loved—but could it sustain the family she cherished? Or would abandoning it cost her soul the very storms she sought to escape?" Strengths:

- Powerful internal conflict
- Effective use of rhetorical questions

Weakness: Rushed emotional resolution → Your ending questions, while thought-provoking, need more build-up. The sudden shift to contemplating family sustainability feels abrupt after focusing on personal passion.

Exemplar: *The map represented more than carved wood—it was her declaration of independence. Yet as her mother's words echoed, Emma wondered if following her passion meant losing the family bonds she held dear.*

■ Your narrative presents a compelling inner struggle between personal dreams and family expectations. The emotional core of your story is strong, but you could deepen the impact by showing more of Emma's daily life as a cartographer. Adding specific details about her work would help readers understand why this career means so much to her. Try weaving in moments that show her expertise and joy in her chosen field. Your metaphors about storms work well, but they need clearer connections to Emma's emotional journey.

Your task: Rewrite the first paragraph focusing on establishing a stronger connection between Emma's scientific background and her current work as a cartographer. Include specific details about how her scientific knowledge enhances her map-making.

Score: 40/50

Section 2:

#1 She felt the ridges of the map she was carving and wondered if the storms below still whispered secrets to those who dared listen. #2 Emma Jones, a world-renowned scientist turned cartographer, stared at the rain pounding the earth, tracing the edge of her badge. The words "You Can Do This!" etched into its surface brought a fleeting warmth—a gift from her young son, a beacon of hope amidst the relentless doubt cast by her family. Her parents had never hidden their disappointment, their words like needles: a lawyer's prestige, they argued, was the only path worthy of their family name. Yet here she was, shaping the contours of a map, a testament to the storms she charted and the freedom she craved. The sharp ring of her phone shattered the quiet. "Emma, enough with this cartography nonsense," her mother's clipped tone pierced through. "I heard about the interviews—real opportunities for a respectable career. When will you wake up and stop embarrassing us?" Her thumb hovered, then hit "end call." Silence reclaimed the room, but her mother's voice lingered. Her chisel struck the stubborn wood with renewed force, shaping the last curve of the map. Finished, she set it aside, her gaze distant. #3 The weight of her choices pressed against her. The map before her symbolized [symbolised] a world she loved—but could it

sustain the family she cherished? Or would abandoning it cost her soul the very storms she sought to escape?

□ WRITING PIECE 2 - FEEDBACK

Section 1:

#1: "In the soft glow of the alien sunset, the crowd gasped at the intricate sculpture, unaware it was created by the one thing they feared most. Sunlight glinted off its sharp edges, drawing a growing crowd who marveled at the alien design."

Strengths:

- Your vivid sensory details create an eerie atmosphere
- Your use of dramatic irony builds tension effectively

Weakness: Limited perspective depth → Your opening focuses mainly on the crowd's surface reactions without diving into individual emotions or thoughts. Phrases like "the crowd gasped" and "drawing a growing crowd" feel distant and generalised.

Exemplar: *In the soft glow of the alien sunset, Emily's heart quickened as she watched dozens of people gathering around the sculpture, their whispered awe masking the sinister truth of its creation.*

#2: "Her eyes landed on a small engraving near the base: 'Human Bait Number One.' Her breath caught in her throat. It wasn't just art—it was a trap."

Strengths:

- Your revelation builds suspense effectively
- Your short sentences amplify the moment of discovery

Weakness: Underdeveloped emotional response → Your character's reaction feels rushed. The phrases "breath caught in her throat" and "it was a trap" could delve deeper into Fiona's internal struggle with this discovery.

Exemplar: *Her eyes fixed on the engraving - "Human Bait Number One" - and ice-cold realisation crept through her veins. This beautiful deception wasn't art; it was humanity's downfall disguised as beauty.*

#3: "She had to act fast—should she try to save her family and escape the danger, or warn the others, risking everything for strangers?"

Strengths:

- Your moral dilemma creates compelling tension
- Your internal conflict adds depth to the character

Weakness: Rushed decision moment → Your ending feels abrupt and doesn't fully explore the weight of the choice. The phrase "had to act fast" rushes through a potentially powerful moment of internal struggle.

Exemplar: *Time seemed to freeze as she stood between her family and the crowd - each second of hesitation could mean death, yet the thought of leaving innocent people to their fate made her stomach churn.*

■ Your narrative shows promise in creating tension and suspense, but needs more emotional depth. You've built an intriguing scenario but could benefit from slower pacing at crucial moments. The moral choice at the end offers a brilliant opportunity to explore your character's values and humanity. Try focusing more on internal thoughts and feelings rather than just external actions. Your dialogue could be expanded to show more character relationships and personality.

Actionable task: Rewrite the scene where Fiona discovers the engraving, focusing on her detailed emotional and physical reactions, and include at least three specific thoughts that run through her mind.

Score: 40/50

Section 2:

#1 In the soft glow of the alien sunset, the crowd gasped at the intricate sculpture, unaware it was created by the one thing they feared most. ~~Sunlight glinted off its sharp edges, drawing a growing crowd who marveled at the alien design.~~ [Sunlight glinted off its sharp edges as more people gathered, their eyes wide with wonder at the alien design.] #2 Fiona, weaving through the sea of legs, finally reached the front, her heart racing as she gazed up at the statue. Her eyes landed on a small engraving near the base: "Human Bait Number One." Her breath caught in her throat. It wasn't just art—it was a trap. Panic surged through her, and she turned to push through the crowd, desperately searching for her parents. The weight of the revelation settled over her like a storm. She knew the danger, but what could she do with this knowledge? Should she shout, warn everyone? Or was it already too late? She finally spotted her father. "Dad!" she gasped, grabbing his arm. "They're coming. We need to leave, now." But as she spoke, the unmistakable sound of approaching ships filled the air. A fleet of UFOs loomed in the distance, descending rapidly toward the crowd. Her father's face twisted in fear. #3 ~~She had to act fast—should she try to save her family and escape the danger, or warn the others, risking everything for strangers?~~ [Time slipped away as she stood frozen—should she protect her family and flee to safety, or warn the others, knowing she might sacrifice everything for strangers?]

□ INTERVIEW

Section 1:

#1 (First paragraph about mother and violin) Strengths:

- Compelling personal anecdote about learning violin shows growth mindset
- Clear connection between family influence and personal development

Weakness: Limited exploration of the challenge → Your response focuses mainly on your mother's advice rather than detailing your personal struggle and growth with the violin. Phrases like "as I struggled to continue playing the violin" could benefit from specific examples of the challenges faced and how you overcame them.

Exemplar: ***"When I hit a plateau learning Beethoven's Violin Concerto, my mother's encouragement helped me break it down into manageable sections, teaching me that persistence means taking small steps towards bigger goals."***

#2 (Weekly gratitude ritual) Strengths:

- Specific detail about the "10 things" format
- Clear explanation of the ritual's impact on family bonds

Weakness: Surface-level impact description → Your discussion of the gratitude ritual could go deeper into how it has shaped specific moments or decisions in your life. The phrase "strengthening our emotional well-being" would be more impactful with concrete examples.

Exemplar: ***"Last month, during a particularly challenging project at work, our gratitude ritual helped me recognise how my family's unwavering support gives me the confidence to tackle new challenges."***

#3 (Mother as inspiration) Strengths:

- Clear link between mother's professional role and personal lessons
- Specific focus on leadership principles

Weakness: Limited personal application → While you mention striving to embody these principles, your answer lacks specific instances where you've applied these leadership lessons. The phrase "I strive to embody those principles" needs supporting examples.

Exemplar: *"As team lead in my university project, I applied my mum's leadership approach by creating weekly feedback sessions where each member could share their challenges and successes."*

■ Your answers demonstrate good potential but need more depth and personal reflection. Consider expanding each response with specific situations that show how these family influences have directly impacted your actions and decisions. Add more details about the challenges you've faced and overcome using these family lessons. Your responses could benefit from concrete examples of how you've applied these values in your daily life.

Score: 40/50

Section 2:

Q1. How has your family shaped the way you approach challenges in life? Can you give a specific example?

#1 I fondly remember how my mother, as I struggled to continue playing the violin, urged me on. ~~She described the importance of persisting and how it would shape my future.~~ [Through patient guidance, she helped me understand how persistence would shape my future.] She explained that in both study and life, we will always face challenges, and deciding to overcome them can lead to better opportunities. Only by giving our best effort can we see true growth. Her lesson reinforced the value of perseverance and the importance of always striving to do my best, while reminding me that it's okay to step back if I've truly tried my best.

Q2. What is one tradition or habit in your family that you cherish the most, and why?

#2 One cherished family tradition is our weekly gratitude ritual. Each of us writes down 10 things we appreciate and then shares them aloud. This simple yet powerful habit fosters a deep sense of gratitude and perspective, strengthening our emotional well-being. It also brings us closer as a family, creating moments of connection and mutual understanding. ~~Hearing what others value, whether big or small, is heartwarming and inspiring.~~ [Listening to each family member's valued moments, from daily victories to major achievements, creates a heartwarming and inspiring atmosphere.] This tradition has become a cornerstone of our family bond, reminding us to focus on the positives and support each other through life's challenges.

Q3. Who in your family inspires you the most, and what lessons have you learned from them?

#3 The person who inspires me the most is my mum, a senior data engineer manager. She has taught me that leadership is not about authority or power, but about responsibility. A good leader considers the growth of each team member and supports them in their development. She has shown me that when every team member is encouraged to contribute their best, the whole team grows stronger. ~~Her approach to leadership has influenced me greatly and I strive to embody those principles by fostering a sense of collaboration and mutual growth in everything I do.~~ [Her approach to leadership has profoundly influenced my own development, inspiring me to foster collaboration and mutual growth in all my endeavours.]