

□ WRITING PIECE 1 - FEEDBACK

Section 1:

#1: "She felt the ridges of the map she was carving and wondered if the storm below whispered secrets to those who dared to listen. She had meant to do it before, but other events took place, so now she had to live with carving the map on the plane."

Strengths:

- Mysterious opening that draws readers in through sensory details
- Sets up an intriguing scenario with the map carving

Weakness: Limited Context → Your opening lacks background information about why Destiny is carving a map mid-flight. The phrase "had to live with carving the map on the plane" leaves readers wondering about these "other events" without any hints to understand their importance.

Exemplar: *She traced the ridges of the map she was carving, her fingers shaking slightly as the plane soared above the legendary storm. After the theft of her original charts, this crude reproduction was their only hope of finding the mysterious island.*

#2: "Crack! Lighting struck the left wing, and the plane spiralled down. Destiny slid down towards the wall that separated the cabin from the cockpit. The impact would have been painful, to say the least, but Destiny managed to grab onto a seat."

Strengths:

- Good use of onomatopoeia with "Crack!"
- Clear sequence of action showing cause and effect

Weakness: Rushed Pacing → Your action sequence moves too quickly through important moments. The phrase "managed to grab onto a seat" skips over the struggle and tension that could make this scene more gripping.

Exemplar: *The crack of lightning split the air as the plane lurched sideways. Destiny's heart pounded as she slid across the tilting floor, her fingers scrambling desperately for any handhold until they finally closed around a seat arm.*

#3: "Black trunks towered above her, and below, blue grass worshipped the orange lightning."

Strengths:

- Creative use of colour to create an otherworldly setting
- Effective use of personification with "worshipped"

Weakness: Underdeveloped Setting → Your description of this strange environment ends too abruptly. The unique elements like "blue grass" and "orange lightning" need more details to help readers picture this alien landscape.

Exemplar: *Twisted black trunks stretched endlessly skyward, while waves of electric-blue grass swayed beneath them, seeming to dance in rhythm with each flash of orange lightning that split the perpetual storm above.*

■ Your narrative shows promise in creating an exciting adventure story with supernatural elements. The core concept of an uncharted island surrounded by an eternal storm is fascinating, but you need to slow down and expand key moments. Take time to build up the tension during the crash sequence. Show us more of Destiny's emotions and thoughts throughout her journey. Add more vivid details about the strange island environment you've created. Give readers more clues about the purpose of the map and why this expedition is so important.

Actionable Task: Rewrite the plane crash sequence (from the lightning strike to landing) focusing on Destiny's emotional journey and physical struggles. Include at least three specific sensory details for each major moment.

Score: 42/50

Section 2:

#1 She felt the ridges of the map she was carving and wondered if the storm below whispered secrets to those who dared to listen. ~~She had meant to do it before, but other events took place, so now she had to live with carving the map on the plane.~~ [Having lost her original charts in the chaos before departure, she now had no choice but to recreate the map mid-flight.] They were flying on an expedition to prove the existence of an uncharted island, flying high above a storm that had been raging long before time existed. The storm never moved, and ships that sailed in never came out.

#2 ~~Crack!~~ [CRACK!] ~~Lighting~~ [Lightning] struck the left wing, and the plane ~~spiralled~~ [spiralled] down. Destiny slid down towards the wall that separated the cabin from the cockpit. The impact would have been painful, to say the least, but Destiny managed to grab onto a seat. Another tremendously loud crack rumbled, and the cockpit separated, falling. The captain's terrified screams were lost in the wind like sand in a storm. The plane plummeted, winds whipping through Destiny's hair.

'Parachutes. I need a parachute' ~~Destiny thought~~ [Destiny thought, her mind racing]. ~~but the chutes were up at the back of the plane, or the top now.~~ [The parachutes hung at what was now the highest point of the rapidly tilting cabin.] Destiny's trembling hands pulled her up from row to row, and finally she reached the white parachutes. They fell through a cloud. Suddenly, everything became slippery. Destiny barely managed to grab the parachute before she fell. Midair, she put the parachute on, pulled the ripcord, and landed safely on an island that wasn't on any map. She was on uncharted land.

#3 Destiny searched for shelter, finding nothing but trees and a few berries and coconuts. Black trunks towered above her, and below, blue grass worshipped the orange lightning.

□ 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. Colours splattered on every inch of the sculpture; colours no human eyes had ever seen before. The sculpture seemed to pulse with life."

Strengths:

- Your vivid sensory details create an eerie atmosphere
- Your use of foreshadowing builds suspense effectively

Weakness: Limited character depth → Your writing focuses mainly on describing the sculpture without showing the crowd's individual reactions or thoughts. Phrases like "the crowd gasped" tell rather than show their emotions.

Exemplar: *The colonists stood transfixed, their faces reflecting the alien sunset's glow as Maria reached out to touch the sculpture's surface, her hand trembling with both wonder and deep-rooted fear.*

#2 "Stone cracked, and the sculpture moved. The stone fell, revealing a creature, one that obviously had an urge to kill. But it seemed adorable. Before the metamorphosis."

Strengths:

- Your short sentences create good pacing for the action
- Your contrast between adorable and deadly is interesting

Weakness: Unclear sequence → Your description jumps between the creature being adorable and deadly without smooth transitions. The phrase "But it seemed adorable" feels disconnected from the surrounding text.

Exemplar: *The stone cracked and fell away, revealing a small, crimson creature with round eyes and delicate features - but its innocent appearance lasted only seconds before the transformation began.*

#3 "Only one human had survived, blood seeping through multiple puncture wounds. Robots healed him, and putting his piloting license to use, he flew back to the mothership, landing in the docking bay."

Strengths:

- Your ending ties back to larger story context

- Your practical details about the pilot add realism

Weakness: Rushed resolution → Your conclusion moves too quickly through important events. Phrases like "Robots healed him" skip over potentially meaningful moments.

Exemplar: *The survivor dragged himself to the medical bay, where robotic arms worked tirelessly to seal his wounds. Each metallic touch reminded him of how far humanity had strayed from Earth.*

■ Your story presents an interesting parallel between human colonisation and alien defence. However, you could deepen the impact by showing more of the survivor's emotional journey. Try adding more details about the personal cost of invasion from both sides. Your ending brings up thought-provoking ideas about invasion and defence, but these themes could be developed throughout the story. Show the reader earlier hints about these similarities between humans and aliens.

Actionable task: Rewrite the final paragraph focusing on the survivor's gradual realisation about the parallel between human and alien invasions. Include specific memories or thoughts that lead to this understanding.

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. Colours splattered on every inch of the sculpture; colours no human eyes had ever seen before. The sculpture seemed to pulse with life.

#2 ~~Stone cracked, and the sculpture moved.~~ [The stone cracked, and the sculpture moved.] The stone fell, revealing a creature, ~~one that obviously had an urge to kill.~~ [one with murderous intent.] But it seemed adorable. Before the metamorphosis. ~~It was a humanoid, red figure, well able to blend into the landscape.~~ [A humanoid, red figure stood before them, blending perfectly into the landscape.]

Then claws ripped out of its fingers and toes, fangs grew from its mouth, bloodshot eyes slitted like a snake. Its ears grew like a rabbit. It grew a tail, with a blade sticking out from the end. Its legs and arms thickened with muscles, and veins bulged everywhere. A snout grew from its nose, and the creature let out a huge roar.

It slashed a clawed hand at the petrified onlookers, piercing their bodies. The onlookers ran, chased by a creature they knew not of. In an effortless bound, the beast blocked their path, devouring those it could. Chaos erupted, and deep below, aliens smiled at the chaos their defender had caused.

#3 Only one human had survived, blood seeping through multiple puncture wounds. Robots healed him, and putting his piloting license to use, he flew back to the mothership, landing in the docking bay. Artificial trees reminded him of lost earth, and his heart ached for the ones that he had lost in the invasion. ~~He realised the similarities.~~ [The bitter truth dawned on him.] There were no differences in the earth invaders and his recent attacker.

□ INTERVIEW

Section 1:

#1: "My family has shaped the way I approach challenges..." (First paragraph) Strengths:

- Clear personal example about the tutoring test
- Shows concrete impact of family support

Weaknesses: Limited reflection on resilience → Your response focuses mainly on receiving encouragement but could explore how this shaped your personal growth. When you mention "I persevere through hard challenges," you could elaborate on specific strategies you developed beyond just not giving up.

Exemplar: *When I face challenges, my family's support has taught me to break down problems into smaller steps and try different approaches until I succeed, like when I struggled with my tutoring test.*

#2: "A habit in my family would be that we often help each other..." (Second paragraph) Strengths:

- Shows understanding of helping others
- Includes specific example with sister

Weaknesses: Limited depth in describing impact → Your response mentions helping your sister but doesn't fully explore how this shapes your character or approach to relationships. The phrase "it is nice to have something to back onto" could be developed to show deeper learning.

Exemplar: *This helping habit has taught me patience and understanding, especially when supporting my sister through difficult tasks. I've learned that sometimes taking a step back and trying again later leads to better results.*

#3: "The person who inspires me most is my mother..." (Third paragraph) Strengths:

- Personal connection to inspiration
- Includes specific details about mother's journey

Weaknesses: Underdeveloped connection to personal impact → Your response tells your mother's story but doesn't fully connect it to your own life and choices. When you say "I look up to my mum for guidance," you could share specific ways her experience influences your decisions.

Exemplar: *My mum's journey from hardship to success has taught me that with determination and hard work, I can overcome any obstacle. Her story reminds me to value education and never take opportunities for granted.*

■ Your responses would benefit from more detailed examples and deeper reflection. Try to explain not just what happened, but how these experiences changed your thinking or behaviour. When discussing family support, share specific lessons learned. Make your answers longer by including more details about how these experiences affect your daily life and future goals.

Score: 38/50

Section 2:

#1 My family has shaped the way I approach challenges by encouraging me and telling me not to give up. They say I can do it, and I persevere through hard challenges to prove them right. They have taught me to be resilient, and not give up hope. ~~My parents have also helped me when I'm stuck, done everything I can think of, but still don't know.~~ [My parents have also helped me when I'm stuck, after I've tried everything I can think of but still don't know what to do.] For example, I was doing a really hard test from my tutoring, and I was struggling. But I didn't give up, like my parents told me, and I got good marks. ~~The question I didn't understand, I went through with my mum and dad, and I didn't make those mistakes again.~~ [I went through the questions I didn't understand with my mum and dad, and I didn't make those mistakes again.] I hope to do the same with my younger sister.

#2 ~~A habit in my family would be that we often help each other, by encouraging, helping or giving clues.~~ [One habit in my family is that we often help each other by encouraging, helping and giving clues.] It is a common thing that when my sister is stuck on something, I help her. My sister is quite short-tempered, which can sometimes make work hard, but I try, and if it doesn't work, let her calm down, then try again. ~~I cherish this because it is nice to have something to back onto~~ [I cherish this because it is nice to have something to fall back on], especially when something might have happened and you aren't thinking straight, having someone to rely on is always nice.

#3 The person who inspires me most is my mother, who got divorced parents, didn't have lots of money, but still got into a very good school on full scholarship. ~~Her dad divorced, because he didn't like his children, my mum and her sister, so wasn't very nice.~~ [Her dad left because he didn't like his children - my mum and her sister - and wasn't very nice to them.] My mum was glad that he went, but now her family was on half the income before. ~~For my mum's mum, this wouldn't really be burden if she was alone, but she had to growing girls.~~ [For my grandmother, this wouldn't have been such a burden if she was alone, but she had two growing girls to support.] ~~To make matter worse~~ [To make matters worse], she didn't have fair income. My grandma wanted my mum and her sister to have a good life, so she paid for tuition and scholarships. I look up to

my mum for guidance, because she struggled and succeeded, and now we live in a nice suburb in a nice home.