

□ 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. Her acute and delicate sense of hearing fastened to the undisclosed messages carried up by the energy of the mysteriously forgotten." Strengths:

- Your vivid sensory details create a mysterious atmosphere
- Your use of personification with "storms whispered secrets" builds intrigue

Weakness: Limited context for the map carving → Your opening needs more details about why she's carving this map. The mention of "storms below" and "messages" leaves readers wondering about their significance.

Exemplar: *She traced the ridges of the ancient map she was carving, her fingers sensing the whispered secrets from the storms raging in the caverns below.*

#2 "With one hand, the other she lost when she was young in a freak car accident – just below her right cheek was a laceration negligently incapacitating her dry skin, a memento from the day." Strengths:

- Your inclusion of character backstory adds depth
- Your detail about the laceration creates visual imagery

Weakness: Disjointed sentence structure → Your sentence combines too many ideas at once. The shift between describing her missing hand and the laceration feels sudden.

Exemplar: *With her remaining hand - the other lost in a childhood accident - she worked carefully. The laceration below her right cheek, a permanent reminder of that day, pulled at her dry skin.*

#3 "Back home she had always been regarded as an exceptional archaeologist- not quite relentless, but close. If she ever managed to return to that place, what new knowledge could she offer all her peers." Strengths:

- Your character development shows professional background
- Your use of internal questioning adds tension

Weakness: Underdeveloped motivation → Your writing doesn't fully explore why this discovery matters to her as an archaeologist. The mention of "new knowledge" needs more specific details.

Exemplar: *As a respected archaeologist back home, she knew this discovery could reshape history. If she returned, her findings about these ancient storm-speaking maps would revolutionise their understanding of lost civilisations.*

■ Your narrative shows promise in creating an intriguing character and situation. You need to strengthen the connection between the map carving, the storms, and their archaeological significance. Try to make your character's immediate goal clearer - why must she complete this map now? Your story hints at interesting elements but needs more concrete details to ground readers in the setting and stakes. Consider developing the relationship between the physical challenges (one hand, injury) and the archaeological mission.

Actionable task: Rewrite the opening paragraph focusing on establishing the specific archaeological significance of the map and its connection to the mysterious storms below.

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. Her acute and delicate sense of hearing fastened to the undisclosed messages carried up by the energy of the mysteriously forgotten.

But time was running too scarce to pay attention. ~~An incomplete map means~~ [An incomplete map meant] being lost here forever. Her face scrunched up marginally and it looked like her eyelids were in pleats. Her mind toggled. She was not easily intimidated yet she asked herself if she possessed the courage to decode the unknown.

#2 So, she chiselled ferociously – hauling her fingertips along the creases of her unfinished chart. With one hand, the other she lost when she was young in a freak car accident – ~~just below her right cheek~~ [just below her right cheek] was a laceration negligently incapacitating her dry skin, a memento from the day. The harder the left hand crafted the more it throbbed; the agony shooting up her arm like a bullet from a gun. Her only tool, the graver, wearing down fast.

#3 Back home she had always been regarded as an exceptional archaeologist- ~~not quite relentless, but close~~ [not quite relentless, but nearly so]. If she ever managed to return to that place, what new knowledge could she offer all her peers. ~~It was this thought that offered~~ [This thought

offered] a new and rudimentary insight. Stop, breathe, listen... the question now was – would she accept.

□ 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. There it stood, alluringly, at the heart of their town like a divine figure symbolising all that is of their lifeform."

Strengths:

- Strong opening that sets an intriguing atmosphere
- Effective use of contrast between beauty and fear

Weakness: Limited context establishment → Your opening leaves readers wondering about the basic setting elements. While mystery is good, we need some grounding details about this alien world and what exactly the crowd fears. The phrase "the one thing they feared most" needs more context.

Exemplar: *In the purple glow of Beta Centauri's setting sun, the crowd gasped at the intricate crystal sculpture, unaware it was created by the artificial intelligence they had banished from their colony decades ago.*

#2: "Wrapping and twisting itself in perfect geometry, each arm interwoven with clusters of translucent gems and rhinestones glistening like sun glint of their ocean of wonder and thought."

Strengths:

- Vivid visual description
- Creative use of metaphor with the ocean comparison

Weakness: Unclear physical structure → Your description mixes concrete and abstract elements in ways that make it hard to picture the sculpture. The phrase "ocean of wonder and thought" sounds lovely but doesn't help readers visualise the scene.

Exemplar: *The sculpture's crystalline arms twisted in mathematical precision, each facet studded with translucent gems that caught the light like droplets on the planet's violet seas.*

#3: "Was this just a façade? What was at the heart of this thing of beauty – what or who was inside watching over me, attempting to control me and take away my individuality, my identity, all the very things that make who we are."

Strengths:

- Strong emotional tension

- Good use of internal dialogue

Weakness: Sudden perspective shift → Your writing jumps from third-person to first-person without warning. The phrase "watching over me" appears suddenly when we were previously following the crowd and the woman.

Exemplar: *She wondered if this was merely a façade, if something lurked within this beautiful shell, waiting to strip away her identity just as it had mesmerised the others.*

■ Your narrative shows promise in building tension and mystery around artificial intelligence and human identity. However, you need to establish your world more clearly early on. The shift between perspectives makes it harder to connect with your characters. Your descriptions, while creative, sometimes sacrifice clarity for poetry. Think about grounding your metaphors in more concrete details that help readers picture your scene.

Actionable task: Rewrite the opening paragraph focusing on establishing the alien setting and what exactly the population fears, while maintaining the mystery about the sculpture's creator.

Score: 40/50

Section 2:

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. There it stood, alluringly, at the heart of their town like a divine figure symbolising all that is of their lifeform. #1 The radiance of their sun shining all its positivity and clarity ~~valiantly onto it and suggesting~~ [valiantly upon it, suggesting] it having feelings too. A stunning fusion of the rarest and most precious elements known, seemingly worked flawlessly with the scrupulous intent of perfection.

#2 Wrapping and twisting itself in perfect geometry, each arm interwoven with clusters of translucent gems and rhinestones glistening like sun glint of their ocean of wonder and thought. The masses had their eyes ~~glued at~~ [fixed upon] the magnificent, striking form. Irresistibly drawn to its beauty and in a state of bliss. ~~Nestled silently toward~~ [Silently nestled at] the back was a woman inching her way closer feeling a brew of wonderstruck and unease. "I feel as though this 'thing' is observing me, seeing through me, knowing every aspect of my private life and every strand of my biological and chemical makeup" she ~~uttered to herself almost silently~~ [whispered to herself].

#3 Was this just a façade? What was at the heart of this thing of beauty – what or who was inside watching over me, attempting to control me and take away my individuality, my identity, all the very things that make who we are. I can't get close enough, this frozen herd is huddled together like eastern bluebirds in a tree cavity to keep warm. "Even if I can expose it for its real meaning", she stumbled on her thoughts "everyone would think me mad".

□ INTERVIEW

Section 1:

#1 "My family has taught me what it takes to have perseverance, resilience, courageousness and work hard..." Strengths:

- Effectively demonstrates personal growth through a specific sports example
- Shows clear cause-and-effect relationship between family values and personal actions

Weakness: Limited reflection on family's direct influence → While you mention family teaching you about effort, you don't explain how they specifically demonstrated this. The soccer example focuses more on your individual actions rather than your family's role in shaping your response to the challenge.

Exemplar: ***"My parents consistently showed me the value of hard work by never giving up when faced with challenges. When my father lost his job, he worked tirelessly to retrain himself, inspiring me to apply this same determination to my soccer training."***

#2 "I cherish Christmas time with my family..." Strengths:

- Rich in sensory details about Christmas celebrations
- Effectively conveys warmth and joy of family traditions

Weakness: Surface-level description of emotional impact → Your response lists activities but doesn't deeply explore why these traditions are meaningful to you personally. Phrases like "something really special" and "feels alive" could be more specific about how these traditions have shaped your character or worldview.

Exemplar: ***"Our Christmas traditions, especially our family Monopoly games, have taught me valuable lessons about handling both victory and defeat with grace, which I've applied to many other areas of my life."***

#3 "My dad is a big inspiration for me..." Strengths:

- Uses specific example of violin practice to illustrate life lessons
- Shows clear connection between father's guidance and practical application

Weakness: Limited exploration of father's impact → You mention your father's qualities like "kindness and wisdom" but don't provide examples of how these traits have specifically influenced your behaviour beyond violin practice.

Exemplar: *"My father's patient approach to teaching me violin mirrors how he handles all of life's challenges, showing me that breaking down any problem into smaller parts makes it manageable."*

■ Your responses would benefit from deeper exploration of how family values and actions directly influence your behaviour and decisions. Include more specific examples of family members demonstrating the qualities you admire, rather than just naming these qualities. When describing traditions, connect them more explicitly to your personal growth and character development. Try to expand your answers by providing concrete situations where family teachings helped you overcome challenges.

Score: 42

Section 2:

1. How has your family shaped the way you approach challenges in life? Can you give a specific example? #1 ~~My family has taught me what it takes to have perseverance, resilience, courageousness and work hard.~~ [My family has taught me what it takes to have perseverance, resilience, courage and to work hard.] Halfway through soccer last season I began to be distracted at training and was not putting in the effort I normally put in. Noticing this the club sent a letter home suggesting I need to lift my game if I wanted to retain my spot on the team. I was upset with myself. I quickly realised that putting in an effort means going beyond what is easy and convenient and my family always showed me that effort is what leads to success. So, I did extra one-one training with the coach, I trained harder at every training session and was fully involved and engaged in all matches. At the end of the season, not only did I cement my spot in the team I was awarded the most improved player of the season.
2. What is one tradition or habit in your family that you cherish the most, and why? #2 I cherish Christmas time with my family. It is a time when we all spend the day together, eating, playing and being together. There's something really special about the great food, the stories, and all the love in the day. It's a day that we all really connect, share stories, and just enjoy ~~each other's~~ [each others'] company. The whole house feels alive. There are Christmas decorations like Christmas crackers and there is plenty excitement. There is always fun, music and memories. What makes it even more meaningful are the little traditions within the big celebration: like playing monopoly and backyard cricket. Each year one of our wonderful family members dresses as Santa and presents our KK gifts. My sister and I always get extra gifts. Last Christmas was particularly good because I now have two new young cousins to enjoy.

3. Who in your family inspires you the most, and what lessons have you learned from them?
#3 My dad is a big inspiration for me, he is my superhero. He has always been a source of kindness and wisdom — with quiet strength and resilience. Helping me stay grounded no matter what life throws at me, teaching me the importance of patience and kindness. I learn a lot about the power of listening, of showing up for people, and of appreciating the little things in life. He has shown me that to play a piece of music correctly on my violin I have to isolate the part giving me trouble and play it repeatedly. I apply patience and take a break. The best result then comes after the break. So, he has taught me to play the piece over and over until I know it inside out. The next day I play the piece perfectly.