

□ WRITING PIECE 1 - FEEDBACK

Section 1:

#1 "Dead ahead of the newest vessel in the fleet stood the storm. It descended with an unsettling ferocity, a towering maelstrom of roiling, ink-black clouds that swallowed the sky." Strengths:

- Vivid imagery that creates a clear picture of the storm
- Effective use of descriptive language that builds tension

Weakness: Limited perspective → Your writing focuses heavily on describing the physical appearance of the storm without revealing Anna's emotional response. The phrase "descended with an unsettling ferocity" could be enhanced by showing how Anna personally experiences this moment.

Exemplar: *The storm loomed before my vessel, my hands trembling as I watched the ink-black clouds descend, their ferocity making my heart race with each passing second.*

#2 "Every twelve years, the elusive storm would appear, and yet the location was very unpredictable, it would catch everyone off guard." Strengths:

- Creates intrigue about the storm's mysterious nature
- Establishes clear stakes for the story

Weakness: Disconnected information → Your writing presents important background details about the Tempus Storm without smoothly connecting them to Anna's current situation. The phrase "it would catch everyone off guard" stands alone without showing how this affects your main character.

Exemplar: *Though I had spent years studying the Tempus Storm's twelve-year cycle, its unpredictable nature still left me questioning if I could truly be ready when it struck.*

#3 "Her boat was barely holding itself together, like a piece of wet bread. The wind thrashed and howled, spraying the entire boat with waves of water." Strengths:

- Creative use of simile
- Strong action verbs that convey movement

Weakness: Rushed pacing → Your writing moves too quickly through this crucial moment. The comparison to "wet bread" and the description of the wind could be expanded to better show the danger Anna faces.

Exemplar: *My vessel creaked and groaned beneath me, its wooden planks growing softer with each passing wave, until I felt as though I were balanced atop nothing more than sodden bread in a churning sea.*

■ Your story presents an engaging concept with the Tempus Storm and its time-travelling properties. However, you could deepen the emotional impact by showing more of Anna's internal thoughts and feelings throughout her journey. The stakes of saving the continent would feel more meaningful if we understood Anna's personal connection to this mission. Try adding more moments where Anna reflects on what drives her to make this sacrifice. You could also strengthen the build-up to the final jump by showing Anna's determination despite her fear.

Actionable Task: Rewrite the final paragraph focusing on Anna's emotional state as she approaches the eye of the storm, making sure to include her thoughts about the sacrifice she's about to make.

Score: 42/50

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. Dead ahead of the newest vessel in the fleet stood the storm. It descended with an unsettling ferocity, a towering maelstrom of roiling, ink-black clouds that swallowed the sky. The wind, savage and unrelenting, screamed through the landscape, uprooting branches and hurling debris like toys in the hands of an angry child. The rain fell in torrential sheets, a relentless barrage that hammered everything in its path, turning the earth to mud and blurring the horizon into a smear of darkness. This was the Tempus Storm.

#2 ~~Every twelve years, the elusive storm would appear, and yet the location was very unpredictable, it would catch everyone off guard.~~ [Every twelve years, the elusive storm would appear, yet its location remained unpredictable, catching everyone off guard.] Eventually, Anna would be here to witness what it had to offer. It was called the Tempus Storm, meaning time. The story was that in the eye of the storm, there was a small vortex, capable of taking only one person into the past. Once the person jumped in, the storm would stop; otherwise, it would continue rampaging across the continent. It was more like a sacrifice than an adventure, Anna grimly thought to herself. Now the storm was almost upon her.

#3 Her boat was barely holding itself together, like a piece of wet bread. The wind thrashed and howled, spraying the entire boat with waves of water. Anna was getting closer to the eye and she could see it – a small circle hovering over calm waves. ~~She jumped.~~ [With one final breath, she jumped.]

□ WRITING PIECE 2 - FEEDBACK

Section 1:

#1: First paragraph Strengths:

- Vivid sensory details with "soft glow of alien sunset" creating atmosphere
- Strong character introduction through Emily's hidden identity

Weakness: Limited world-building depth → Your description of the Alaby castle lacks context within the story's universe. The phrase "towering above an intricate castle, the Alaby" appears without proper setup of its significance.

Exemplar: *The statue captured the essence of the Alaby - the ancient fortress where generations of Delucian rulers had maintained their dominion over the dragon guardians.*

#2: Third paragraph Strengths:

- Clear conflict introduction with police discovering the statue
- Good tension building through stolen artwork

Weakness: Underdeveloped conflict → The police claiming the statue happens too quickly without showing their motives or Emily's immediate reaction. "The police walked past, found the detailed statue, and claimed it as their own" needs more emotional weight.

Exemplar: *Emily's heart froze as she watched from the shadows while the police examined her creation, their greedy eyes lighting up at its perceived value. Within moments, they had declared it "property of the state."*

#3: Final paragraph Strengths:

- Compelling revelation of the statue's true purpose
- Strong emotional stakes established

Weakness: Rushed ending → The shift from hope to revenge feels abrupt. The line "Tonight, the humans would change forever" doesn't fully connect to earlier mentions of Emily's feelings of isolation.

Exemplar: *As Emily watched the unsecured sculpture pulse with her years of suppressed pain, she knew that tonight would force the humans to finally understand what it meant to be an outcast.*

■ Your narrative presents an intriguing premise but needs deeper exploration of Emily's character journey. The emotional transformation from wanting acceptance to seeking revenge would be

more powerful if you showed more of her daily struggles. The world you've created has fascinating elements like the Delucian device and dragon servants, but these need clearer integration into the main story. Your pacing speeds up too quickly in the latter half, reducing the impact of the ending. Try expanding on Emily's conflicting feelings about using the device and her relationship with her heritage.

Actionable task: Rewrite the final two paragraphs focusing on Emily's internal struggle between her desire for acceptance and her decision to use the sculpture as a weapon of revenge.

Score: 42/50

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. The statue, in fact, was brilliant. ~~It had dragons twisted from molten gold, towering above an intricate castle, the Alaby.~~ [Golden dragons twisted around the spires of the Alaby, their molten forms eternally guarding the ancient castle.] Emily stood in the square, for after all, the figure was hers – a labour of love shaped in secrecy over countless nights in the obsidian caves beyond the settlement's borders. She had used forbidden tech – an ancient Delucian device capable of transforming matter with exquisite precision, guided by the emotions of its wielder. Every night she would gaze up at the pearlescent moon and wish she were like everyone else. She was the last of her kind, and was feared and hated throughout the lands. Her race looked almost identical to humans but had oily green skin. If she needed to go to the settlement, she would have to put on enough makeup to look like the others.

#2 But one day, while she was in her cave, ~~the police walked past, found the detailed statue, and claimed it as their own.~~ [the settlement police discovered her sanctuary and, upon seeing the detailed statue, immediately declared it property of the state.] The statue was almost finished and still needed the finishing touches, but to the untrained eye of a human, it looked perfect. The townspeople would pay lots of money just to get a glance at such a castle.

The humans had no idea what it was about, nor that it was made by a Delucian device. The castle was where Emily's race's Emperor lived, and the dragons were his servants. Delucian methods were hated throughout the lands, and so were the people. The device had the capability for humans to experience the emotions Emily was feeling while making the sculpture, and this was hope.

#3 ~~To Emily, the sculpture seemed alive, as it pulsed with an energetic glow.~~ [Emily watched as her sculpture pulsed with living energy, each wave of light matching her heartbeat.] It had not

been secured, which was the final step to finishing the sculpture – containing it from unleashing all emotion. Emily was to witness it all, so the humans could experience desperation, depression, and agony. Tonight, the humans would change forever.

□ INTERVIEW

Section 1:

#1: "My family has taught me to be determined to succeed and to persevere, even when the situation seems unfathomable..."

Strengths:

- Opens with a clear connection between family influence and personal development
- Uses specific example of great-grandmother's wartime experience

Weakness: Limited depth in personal application → While you mention your great-grandmother's perseverance, you shift quickly to a school report example that doesn't fully demonstrate how determination helped you overcome challenges. The connection between the family value and your personal growth needs more detail.

I learned about perseverance when I failed my first major exam. Instead of giving up, I remembered my great-grandmother's strength and spent three months studying differently, eventually improving my grades significantly.

#2: "A family tradition I cherish is always being careful and cautious..."

Strengths:

- Shows practical application in daily life
- Links family value to academic success

Weakness: Narrow interpretation of tradition → Your response focuses on cautious behaviour rather than meaningful family traditions that bring you together. Traditional family activities, celebrations, or shared moments would create a more engaging answer.

One tradition I deeply value is our Sunday evening family discussions, where we share our weekly challenges and help each other find solutions.

#3: "My great-grandmother inspires me the most..."

Strengths:

- Powerful historical context
- Clear illustration of resilience

Weakness: Missing personal connection → You describe your great-grandmother's inspiring actions but don't fully explain how her experience shapes your current behaviour and choices. The impact of her optimistic attitude on your own approach to difficulties needs more development.

Like my great-grandmother who rebuilt her life in Australia, I faced moving schools with optimism, choosing to see it as an opportunity for growth rather than a setback.

■ Your responses would benefit from more detailed personal examples showing how family values directly influence your actions. Try to expand each answer with specific situations where you applied these lessons. Include your emotional journey and growth in each example. When discussing family influence, share more about your interactions and conversations with family members.

Score: 41/50

Section 2:

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

#1 My family has taught me to be determined to succeed and to persevere, even when the situation seems unfathomable. My great-grandmother demonstrated this when she persevered through World War II and always told me never to give up. My parents have taught me to support one another, and that teamwork makes the dream work. They also believe that we should always learn from our mistakes, as this is the best way to improve. ~~I remember once I received an unsatisfactory school report. My parents got angry and made me practice the things I didn't excel at over and over again.~~ [When I received an unsatisfactory school report, my parents helped me create a structured practice routine for subjects I struggled with, showing me how persistence leads to improvement.]

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

#2 A family tradition I cherish is always being careful and cautious. This may sound like a negative thing, but it is very useful, especially in helping to avoid unnecessary mistakes or accidents. My family always takes the time to think things through and make sure we are making informed decisions. Whether it was something small, like making sure all the doors were locked before leaving the house, or something bigger, like not living in a high fire risk area, being surrounded by people who are cautious also helps academically. Being careful in writing helps pick up on mistakes many would have missed, and just checking over work in general.

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

#3 My great-grandmother inspires me the most for her perseverance and hard work. She was a survivor of World War II and showed great perseverance during her time in concentration camps. She taught me never to give up and always keep trying. Another important lesson I learned from her is to always work hard. ~~After the war, she had to move to Australia and leave everything behind. She started a new life here with an optimistic attitude and always kept a smile on her face, even during the hardest times.~~ [After the war, when she moved to Australia, she demonstrated remarkable resilience by building a new life from scratch, maintaining an optimistic attitude and warm smile even through significant challenges.]