

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. The crinkled paper attacked her calloused hands as she looked across it, falling into a dilemma on whether to become an explorer..."

Strengths:

- Strong sensory details that engage touch and sight
- Effective setup of the central conflict

Weakness: Limited emotional depth → Your writing focuses on physical descriptions but doesn't fully explore Sarah's emotional connection to exploration. The phrase "falling into a dilemma" feels distant from her inner turmoil.

Exemplar: *As her fingers traced the carved ridges of the map, Sarah's heart ached with the weight of generations of explorers who had charted these same waters, their whispered secrets calling to her soul.*

#2: "Two callings grappled together as both musical notes and great stories of her ancestor Sir Francis Drake fought. Looking down at the map, it flickered between its true form and a music sheet, but she didn't have time to choose with the storm above."

Strengths:

- Creative metaphor linking music and exploration
- Dynamic imagery of the map transforming

Weakness: Rushed pacing → Your writing speeds through this pivotal moment. The phrase "didn't have time to choose" cuts short what could be a deeper exploration of her internal struggle.

Exemplar: *The map beneath her fingers seemed to pulse with dual rhythms - the steady beat of waves against a ship's hull and the flowing melody of a concert hall. Each called to her with equal force, demanding an answer she wasn't ready to give.*

#3: "As she looked out at the ocean, her fingers subconsciously danced along the edges of the map again, the paths becoming familiar in the same way the notes did when she practiced."

Strengths:

- Beautiful parallel between music and navigation
- Natural character movement that reveals inner thoughts

Weakness: Underdeveloped theme connection → Your writing touches on but doesn't fully develop the connection between musical practice and exploration. The comparison feels brief rather than meaningful.

Exemplar: *Her fingers traced the mapped routes with the same practised precision as they found their way across piano keys, each journey a melody waiting to be discovered, each destination a symphony unfolding.*

■ Your narrative presents an intriguing conflict between tradition and personal passion. The foundation for a compelling story exists in your work. You could strengthen it by diving deeper into Sarah's emotional landscape and taking more time to explore the parallels between music and exploration. Consider how each path would specifically affect her future and what she might gain or lose with either choice. Add more specific details about her musical achievements and her family's explorations to help readers understand the weight of her decision.

Actionable Task: Rewrite the paragraph where Sarah receives the text from her mother, focusing on showing her immediate emotional and physical reactions to those words, and include specific memories that each path triggers.

Score: 42/50

Section 2:

The Legacy of Sound and Sea

#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. The crinkled paper attacked her calloused hands as she looked across it, falling into a dilemma ~~on whether~~ [about whether] to become an explorer, a life of constant thrill and excitement that had been carried through her family for generations or to take the music scholarship.

The boat awaited before Sarah Drake, the precipice of her future, the weight of her family's legacy pressing down on her shoulders like an anchor. The salty wind whipped through her hair,

carrying the faint scent of the sea, the same sea her ancestors had once sailed with dreams of plunder and glory. But it was not so simple...

The scholarship was a promise of security where her musical talent could shine, a promise of a life that followed a path well-trodden by those who chose reason over recklessness. A chance to dive into the world of classical music, to play on stages she had dreamed of as a kid before hearing the stories.

~~#2 Two callings grappled together as both musical notes and great stories of her ancestor Sir Francis Drake fought.~~ [The musical notes and great stories of her ancestor Sir Francis Drake grappled within her mind, two callings locked in battle.] Looking down at the map, it flickered between its true form and a music sheet, but she didn't have time to choose with the storm above.

Her phone buzzed in her pocket, pulling her from her thoughts. A text from her mother: "Remember, Sarah, we've always supported your dreams. You know that. But don't forget who you are. Who we are. Make a careful decision." Her mother's words were always laced with both love and a reminder of the legacy they bore.

Sarah's heart raced. She could hear the call of the ocean in the distance, whispering promises of adventure, of the unknown. The call to prove herself, to carve her own name in history—just as Drake had done. But could she leave behind the music she had loved since she was a child? Could she turn her back on the future that seemed so tangible, so certain?

#3 As she looked out at the ocean, her fingers subconsciously danced along the edges of the map again, the paths becoming familiar in the same way the notes did when she practiced. Looking out once again, she saw both options. The scholarship was a doorway to the future, but the adventure was a journey into her soul. The decision was hers to make. And she was ready to forge her own path, one note and one wave at a time.

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." Strengths:

- Strong opening hook that creates mystery and tension
- Effective use of sensory details with "soft glow"

Weakness: Limited context → Your opening sentence leaves readers wondering about crucial background details. While mystery is good, we need some grounding in who "they" are and what they fear most. The sentence could benefit from establishing more context about the setting and characters.

Exemplar: ***In the soft glow of Nocholon's alien sunset, the crowd of indigenous settlers gasped at the intricate sculpture, unaware it was created by the Earthlings - the very beings whose arrival had once brought war to their world.***

#2 "The stone sculpture on the ground, an intricate series of arches and spirals, had been hailed as an enigma. Its smooth, unnatural edges shimmered in the dimming light, reflecting the viridian glow as if it were alive." Strengths:

- Vivid description of the sculpture's physical features
- Strong imagery with the reflection detail

Weakness: Underdeveloped significance → Your description focuses mainly on physical appearance without delving into why this sculpture matters to the plot. The mention of it being "an enigma" needs more development to show its importance to the story.

Exemplar: ***The stone sculpture lay embedded in the soil - its intricate arches and spirals forming not just art, but a warning message from Earth. Its smooth, unnatural edges pulsed with an inner light, reflecting the viridian glow in a way that made Zeko's heart race with recognition.***

#3 "He now had a dilemma on who to tell, there was no time to tell the elders, but the chatter was almost deafening as they once again began speaking, making theories." Strengths:

- Creates tension through internal conflict
- Shows social dynamics of the community

Weakness: Rushed pacing → Your writing speeds through Zeko's crucial decision moment. The sentence structure makes the dilemma feel less impactful than it should be, given its importance to the plot.

Exemplar: *Zeko's mind raced as the crowd's theories grew wilder. The elders needed to know immediately, but reaching their sacred chamber would take precious time - time they might not have as those shapes drew closer.*

■ Your narrative presents an intriguing premise about intergalactic conflict and communication through art. You have created interesting visual elements with the green sunset and mysterious sculpture. To strengthen your writing, try to develop the relationship between the Nocholians and Earthlings more clearly. Add more details about why the sculpture is significant as a message. Consider showing more of Zeko's emotional journey as he recognises the threat. Your story would benefit from a clearer timeline of past events to help readers understand the current tension.

Actionable task: Rewrite the paragraph about the sculpture's discovery, focusing on connecting its physical description to its significance as a message from Earth. Include specific details about how Zeko recognises its true meaning.

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 sun slowly faded into the horizon, but it was not accompanied by a serene and calm pink sunset nor a red glow like normal – it was viridian green across the blue sky. Zeko looked up at the atmosphere of the planet Nocholon, at the stone carving that had dropped from it. Hundreds gathered around him as he watched ~~an opaque, dark shape flew~~ [an opaque, dark shape fly] across the sky, splitting into more and more shapes as it got closer.

#2 The crowd fell silent, their eyes widening as the mysterious shapes grew clearer, more defined, like shadows peeling from the now green fabric of the sky. Zeko's heart thudded in his chest, not just from awe, but from a creeping sense of dread. It wasn't just the shape of the thing—they all knew what it was. They had been warned. The stone sculpture on the ground, an intricate series of arches and spirals, had been hailed as an enigma. Its smooth, unnatural edges shimmered in the dimming light, reflecting the viridian glow as if it were alive.

~~#3 He now had a dilemma on who to tell, there was no time to tell the elders, but the chatter was almost deafening as they once again began speaking, making theories. [He faced a dilemma about whom to tell; whilst there was no time to reach the elders, the crowd's deafening chatter grew as theories spread.] "It's the Earthlings," he muttered, barely above a whisper. "They've been watching us and now they're here." Once again, he screamed it out, recalling legends of their inventions – the golden disc that was imbued with secrets. The Nocholians had tried to become the last tribe but then they came. A war had broken out and now they were back.~~

INTERVIEW

Section 1:

#1 "My family has had a huge impact on how I approach challenges. During my life, my parents have always emphasised that talent and hard work as well as resilience is what creates success in life, so I strive to achieve that."

Strengths:

- You show clear understanding of your family's influence
- You connect values to personal development

Weakness: Limited detail in example → Your response would be stronger if you expanded on how exactly your parents helped develop these qualities. The phrase "so I strive to achieve that" needs more specific examples of how you apply these lessons.

Exemplar: ***"My parents consistently demonstrated that success comes from both natural ability and persistent effort. For instance, when I struggled with maths, they encouraged me to combine my analytical skills with daily practice, which helped me improve significantly."***

#2 "Setting up the tree with my dad and sister is a tradition I truly cherish. It's one of those yearly moments that bring us all together."

Strengths:

- You capture the emotional significance of the tradition
- You provide specific details about roles

Weakness: Limited reflection on personal growth → While you describe the activity well, you could explore how this tradition has shaped your relationships or personal development. The phrase "bring us all together" could be developed to show deeper meaning.

Exemplar: ***"This yearly tradition of decorating the tree has taught me the value of family bonds and creating shared experiences. Each ornament tells a story of our growth together, making this more than just a holiday activity."***

#3 "She helps me out figure out my problems and encourages me to keep doing any good things."

Strengths:

- You show genuine appreciation for your mother
- You connect support to specific situations

Weakness: Vague description of impact → Your response would benefit from specific examples of how your mother's guidance changed your approach to challenges. The phrase "any good things" needs more concrete examples.

Exemplar: *"My mother's guidance has been crucial in helping me overcome specific challenges, like when she helped me develop a structured study routine that improved my exam performance while maintaining my passion for music."*

■ Your answers show personal reflection but need more depth in examples and impact. Try to include specific situations where family influence led to personal growth. Add more details about how these experiences changed your thinking or behaviour. Make your responses longer by including more concrete examples and explaining their lasting impact on your life.

Score: 40/50

Section 2:

#1 ~~During my life,~~ [Throughout my life,] my parents have always emphasised that talent and hard work as well as resilience ~~is~~ [are] what creates success in life, so I strive to achieve that. While I am trying to become more independent, their lessons and influence ~~has~~ [have] greatly impacted my thinking. As an example, when I failed a trial test, my mom tried to think about how to make sure I don't do it again, which has helped me overcome that mistake of not reading the question right.

#2 Setting up the tree with my dad and sister is a tradition I truly cherish. It's one of those yearly moments that bring us all together. Every year, my dad sets up the tree while ~~me and my sister~~ [my sister and I] do the ornaments afterwards, before watching my dad once again take over to do the lights. There are some that are old, some that are newer and some that we made ourselves. ~~It's not just about the decorations — it's~~ [It's not just about the decorations — it's] about creating memories welcoming the holidays, which take place near Christmas. Even when life gets busy, this tradition reminds us to pause and enjoy each other's company by playing during the time with the time we have instead of remaining glued to our devices and screens like we do normally.

#3 The person in my family who inspires me the most is definitely my mom. She always helps me out, dedicating so much time that proves how much she loves me. ~~She helps me out figure out~~ [She helps me figure out] my problems and encourages me to keep doing ~~any~~ good things. When I feel frustrated with my academic studies or my music practices, she will encourage me to continue. She also gives me other pieces of insightful information like if you stop studying hard, you will fall behind when others are racing against you. She's shown me that no matter what

challenges life throws at you, it's how you handle them that really makes the difference. When I grow up, I hope to be able to be like her to other people.