

□ WRITING PIECE 1 - FEEDBACK

Section 1:

#1: "You'll never make it, Angela!... The applications end in two days!" Strengths:

- Strong emotional tension through dialogue
- Clear establishment of conflict between mother and daughter

Weakness: Limited context of Angela's backstory → Your opening dialogue jumps directly into conflict without giving readers understanding of Angela's passion for marine archaeology. Phrases like "finally be the second member" need more context about her family's connection to the sea. ***I wished to follow in Father's footsteps as a marine archaeologist ever since I was young. Mother's words stung, but they couldn't dampen my determination to apply to the underwater archaeology programme.***

#2: "That foreboding night... like the squall itself." Strengths:

- Vivid weather imagery
- Effective use of simile with the dog and stick comparison

Weakness: Unclear sequence of events → Your paragraph moves too quickly from Angela leaving home to being caught in the storm. Phrases like "supernatural map she had carved" and "ocean calling her name" need better connection to show how she actually reached the dangerous waters. ***The storm grew fiercer as I followed my hand-carved map towards the shipwreck site. Each flash of lightning illuminated the churning waves that threatened to overwhelm my tiny boat.***

#3: "Angela found herself... than coins and jewels themselves." Strengths:

- Meaningful resolution with family photos
- Good emotional payoff connecting to earlier conflict

Weakness: Rushed ending → Your conclusion moves too quickly from finding the chest to resolution. The phrase "instantly made her discovery part of her application" doesn't show how this adventure changed her relationship with her mother. ***Mother held the old family photos in trembling hands. For the first time since Father's death, I saw tears of joy in her eyes as she helped me complete my application.***

■ Your story has a compelling premise about following one's dreams despite family opposition. However, you need to develop Angela's determination more clearly throughout the narrative. The

early scenes would be stronger if you showed why underwater archaeology means so much to her. The middle section needs better pacing to build tension during the storm sequence. The ending would be more satisfying if you explored how finding the chest helped heal the rift between mother and daughter.

Actionable Task: Rewrite the scene where Angela discovers the chest, focusing on her emotional reaction to finding family photos and how this discovery helps her understand her mother's fears.

Score: 42/50

Section 2:

#1 "You'll never make it, Angela! Don't you want to meet the same fate as your dad?", ~~Mother remarked angrily~~ [Mother spat]. Angela was a young, yet curious teenager. ~~Since she was just a young adult~~ [Despite her youth], she found her abode in sailing and wished to discover the depths below her rickety, stilt-supported house. 'But I'll finally be the second member of my family to discover at least something! Didn't you say you'd be proud of me to qualify for that underwater archaeology school? The applications end in two days!' Angela replied.

#2 ~~That foreboding night~~ [On that foreboding night], Angela could spot blinding lightning strikes in the distance, contrasting to the storms that lay ahead. Although her town was seemingly voiceless, as she ran her fingers through the supernatural map she had carved, she could faintly hear the ocean calling her name. By the time she reached the cacophonous squall, the chaotic sea was tossing her tiny boat around, as if it were a dog playing with a stick. She then [realised] the severity of each problem, and ~~them~~ [then] became stressed like the squall itself.

#3 Angela found herself on a tiny speedboat. When she finally stood up since losing her boat, she caught a glimpse of a tiny sparkle. Angela found a torch beside it, and shining the torch onto the object, she found out that it was a treasure chest with pure gold edges. The wooden edges were smooth, each part akin to a tiny string being part of a unique tapestry. Inside it, Angela found pictures of her ~~untorn~~ [intact] family, which somehow remained stoic after many days. ~~The next day, she brought it to Mother~~ [When she brought it to Mother the next day], who, just in time, instantly made her discovery part of her application for her alma mater. She called the chest's contents the most invaluable treasure a sailor could ever find; significantly more valuable than coins and jewels themselves.

□ WRITING PIECE 2 - FEEDBACK

Section 1:

#1 (Opening paragraph): Strengths:

- Strong descriptive imagery of the sunset setting
- Effective use of dramatic introduction with the mayor's announcement

Weakness: Underdeveloped scene setting → Your opening lacks details about the location and crowd's composition. The phrase "on the cusp of a noble, hallowed cliff face" leaves readers wondering about the specific features of this important setting.

Exemplar: *The mayor stood proudly before the gathered townspeople, his voice carrying across the ancient cliff edge as the golden sunset painted the sky. "Behold, the Orb of the Cliff, a ball of beauty and technology!" he announced, drawing thunderous applause from the mesmerised crowd.*

#2 (Middle section with the elder): Strengths:

- Good tension building through dialogue
- Nice contrast between the mayor's panic and elder's dismissal

Weakness: Character depth lacking → Your dialogue between the mayor and elder feels rushed. The phrase "Even with his small, green, fragile body deceiving his gifted brain" comes suddenly without prior context about the elder's appearance or personality.

Exemplar: *The elder's wise eyes narrowed as he studied the mayor's panicked face. "What harm could such a beautiful artefact bring to our peaceful civilisation?" he asked, his frail green form trembling with disappointment.*

#3 (Climax and resolution): Strengths:

- Good pacing with countdown creating tension
- Clear resolution with community cooperation

Weakness: Rushed ending → Your conclusion moves too quickly from crisis to celebration. The phrase "the city hosted a festival to celebrate" needs more development about how the people's attitudes changed.

Exemplar: *As the orb disappeared into the misty forest below, a wave of relief swept through the crowd. The same citizens who had doubted their mayor now gathered around him with grateful smiles, planning a celebration that would honour their unity in the face of danger.*

■ Your narrative has an interesting premise about trust and community cooperation. The countdown creates good suspense, but you could strengthen the story by developing the relationships between characters more deeply. The sudden shift from disbelief to helping the mayor needs more details to feel natural. Try adding more scenes showing how the townspeople gradually come to believe the mayor's warnings. Your description of the city environment is colourful but could be better connected to the story's events.

Actionable task: Rewrite the scene between the mayor and elder, focusing on their established relationship and adding specific details about past events that would make the elder's dismissal more impactful.

Score: 42/50

Section 2:

'Behold, the Orb of the Cliff, a ball of beauty and technology!' the mayor announced happily ~~on the cusp of~~ [at the edge of] a noble, hallowed cliff face at sunset, as the crowd made a thunderous applause. #1

The sphere, in the face of the sky, which always possessed an amber glow, was engulfed in ornate yet alien patterns, each carving a sign that another [civilisation] could await them in the far future.

After the bustling crowd left, the mayor performed his normal duties for strange phenomena. He took notes of every part of the ball, from its perfectly circular shape, to the intricate patterns sprawled among it. As he examined the texture of the orb, neon-green, alien-looking numbers appeared on the ball. The mayor jumped in shock as the characters appeared almost abruptly. As the numbers changed appearance, he could hear a ticking sound, which worried him exceedingly. 'Oh no, I've made a terrible mistake! This ball could actually be a ticking bomb!', the distressed mayor cried out, when he estimated that the grenade would explode in two hours.

~~At once, the mayor ventured out into the city, sprawled with artworks with radiant yellows, reds and blues, acting as signs of consumerism.~~ [The mayor rushed through the city streets, where radiant artwork in yellows, reds and blues advertised a thriving culture.] He then started telling other people about the incoming disaster, but no one seemed to believe this strange calamity. He still remembered the dialogue of one person, the city elder, once thought to be a kind ally to the mayor, now a hurtful enemy. #2

'Elder! I'm afraid to tell you this, but this 'Orb of the Cliff' was all just a lie! Someone must be out there to kill us!' the mayor pleaded. Even with his small, green, fragile body deceiving his gifted

brain, the elder still didn't believe the mayor. 'Mayor! What are you talking about? How dare you call such a renowned object a bomb! What harm might it do to our [civilisation]?' the elder replied as he betrayed the mayor. 'B-b-but-' The elder had already disappeared into the dark alleys of the street. Then, the mayor forlornly walked back to his penthouse for his one-hour sleep, already graffitied by those who had heard his conversation with the elder. He sobbed himself to sleep.

'THIRTY MINUTES LEFT UNTIL DETONATION' The mayor instantly awoke from his slumber, and instantly proceeded to the deceiving 'Orb of the Cliff'. Instantly, he heard a bustling chatter from the residents, seeming to talk about the orb. 'TEN MINUTES' The mayor then decided to gather up all the people in the city to attempt to push the sphere far off the cliff and into the mystified, uncharted forest below. 'FIVE MINUTES' He had collected all the people in the overcrowded metropolis, and started to sprint towards the deceiving orb. 'ONE MINUTE' They had arrived at the 'artwork', and with all the residents using all their strength acumen, the sphere started to move, each person a step contributing towards a testimonial goal. Some of the villagers were worried that it could be the last day of their lives. #3 'FIVE SECONDS' The ball finally lost its hold of the cliff, tumbling ~~of~~ [off] the city's edge and into the bleak, ash-grey forest. The mayor was then ~~revitalised~~ [restored] back into his normal, cheery attitude, and, at midday, the city hosted a festival to celebrate. The day was then made a public holiday, honouring the utopia's success in thwarting a fatal scheme.

□ INTERVIEW

Section 1:

#1 "My family has helped me approach challenges in life by encouraging me to keep going when felt like I couldn't succeed..." Strengths:

- Personal anecdote about swimming shows resilience
- Clear example demonstrates family support

Weakness: Limited reflection on learning → Your response focuses mainly on describing what happened but lacks deeper thoughts about how this experience changed you. When you mention "I still enjoy and participate in swim squads today", you could explore more about what skills or values you gained from persisting.

Exemplar: *Through this experience, I learned that initial struggles are normal, and with persistence and family support, I can overcome challenges and even grow to love activities that once seemed impossible.*

#2 "Our family is Filipino, and one of the traditions that we do is blessing our relatives..." Strengths:

- Detailed description of cultural tradition
- Clear connection between family and faith

Weakness: Surface-level cultural discussion → Your response describes the blessing tradition but doesn't share why it matters to you personally. When you mention "blessing is a sign of respect", you could dig deeper into how this tradition shapes your relationships with family members.

Exemplar: *This blessing tradition has taught me the value of humility and strengthened my bond with older relatives, as each interaction reminds me of our shared heritage and family values.*

#3 "The person in my family who has inspired me the most is my mum..." Strengths:

- Specific examples of mother's influence
- Clear connection between mother's actions and personal learning

Weakness: Limited specific scenarios → Your response gives general statements about your mum helping in "hard times" but doesn't share specific moments that show these qualities. When you mention she "helps me learn from my mistakes", you could include a memorable example.

Exemplar: *When I struggled with a difficult maths project last term, my mum sat with me every evening, helping me break down the problems step by step while encouraging me to find solutions independently.*

■ Your responses show genuine appreciation for your family and culture. To make your answers stronger, try to share more specific examples and explain how these experiences have shaped your thoughts and actions today. For each point you make, ask yourself "why does this matter to me?" and include your thoughts about it. This will help readers better understand your personal growth through these family experiences.

Score: 39/50

Section 2:

#1 My family has helped me approach challenges in life by encouraging me to keep going when ~~felt~~ [I felt] like I couldn't succeed. They supported me when, on my first sessions of swim squads, I thought that I wasn't doing well in it and I was almost always last in line. I felt disappointed and I asked my parents if I could quit squads. However, they said that it was still my first time there, and that ~~you wouldn't~~ [I wouldn't] be good at everything at first. My parents encouraged me to keep going and I still enjoy and participate in swim squads today.

#2 Our family is Filipino, and one of the traditions that we do is blessing our relatives when we visit them. It is when the older person gives a blessing to their grandchild or relative. Blessing is a sign of respect in my culture that involves the younger person bowing and the elder bringing their own hand to their descendant. As well as respecting our elders, we also go to church every week, and we learn more about Jesus and ask him to forgive our sins. My brother and I partake in Christian sacraments, like my other relatives have done before.

#3 The person in my family who has inspired me the most is my mum. She strives to support our family in hard times and always tries her best. My mum helps me learn from my mistakes and encourages me to keep going. She cares for our family and helps around the house when we are busy with other tasks. From my mum, I have learned to do my best even in tough times and to learn from my mistakes. ~~When I feel like I can't succeed, I remember that my mum taught me to persist even when I am losing in something.~~ [My mum's lesson about persisting through challenges helps me whenever I feel like giving up.]