

## WRITING PIECE 1 - FEEDBACK

Section 1:

#1: "The sun hung low over the horizon, its golden glow casting ripples across the tide as Lucas strolled along the beach. His toes dug into the cool, damp sand, savouring the season's final moments."

Strengths:

- Vivid sensory details that create a clear beach setting
- Effective use of mood-setting through natural imagery

Weakness: Limited character depth → Your opening focuses mainly on physical descriptions without revealing Lucas's thoughts or feelings about the ending season. The phrase "savouring the season's final moments" hints at emotion but doesn't explore it fully.

Exemplar: *The sun hung low over the horizon, its golden glow casting ripples across the tide as Lucas strolled along the beach, his heart heavy with the bittersweet knowledge that summer was slipping away.*

#2: "The paper exhaled the scent of salt and time, but it was the intricate script that held Lucas's captive."

Strengths:

- Creative personification of the paper
- Strong sensory detail with the scent description

Weakness: Unclear character reaction → Your writing doesn't show how Lucas feels about finding this mysterious script. The phrase "held Lucas's captive" needs more detail about his emotional response.

Exemplar: *The paper exhaled the scent of salt and time, and Lucas's hands trembled as he studied the intricate script, his mind racing with possibilities.*

#3: "Summer might have ended, but the message promised a new journey—one laden with mysteries more enduring than the fleeting season."

Strengths:

- Good thematic connection between seasons and change
- Strong use of metaphor

Weakness: Underdeveloped ending → Your conclusion leaves many questions open without giving readers a sense of what might happen next. The phrase "promised a new journey" needs more specific details.

Exemplar: *Though summer had ended, Lucas clutched the message close, knowing that tomorrow he would begin unravelling its ancient secrets, wherever they might lead.*

■ Your writing creates a lovely mysterious atmosphere but needs more emotional depth from Lucas. Try adding more of his personal thoughts and feelings throughout the story. Show how this discovery might change him or what it means to him personally. Include small details about his character that help readers connect with him better.

Actionable task: Rewrite the middle paragraph focusing on Lucas's emotional and mental reactions to finding the message, including at least three specific thoughts or feelings he experiences.

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**Score: 40/50**

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Section 2:

#1 The sun hung low over the horizon, its golden glow casting ripples across the tide as Lucas strolled along the beach. His toes dug into the cool, damp sand, savouring the season's final moments.

A glass jar, rounded and worn smooth by the tides, peeked out from beneath the sand. The sunlight caught its surface, revealing hints of something folded tightly inside. He pried the jar open, careful not to crack it, and shook out an aged parchment.

#2 The paper exhaled the scent of salt and time, but it was the intricate script that held Lucas's captive [Lucas captive]. ~~The symbols swirled and spiralled~~ [The symbols swirled and spiralled,] like living tendrils of smoke, foreign yet hauntingly familiar, as though they whispered a forgotten truth.

His fingers traced the lines absentmindedly, the edges rough against his skin. Questions churned in his mind. Who had written this? What did it mean? The air seemed charged as if the universe held its breath, waiting for him to act.

#3 ~~Summer might have ended~~ [Summer may have ended], but the message promised a new journey—one laden with mysteries more enduring than the fleeting season.

## WRITING PIECE 2 - FEEDBACK

Section 1:

#1 "At midnight, when the village below slept undisturbed, Liam perched on his windowsill, gazing at the night sky. His routine had started accidentally, from a restless night, an idle glance upwards, but now it had become a nightly obsession."

Strengths:

- Strong scene-setting that establishes time and place effectively
- Natural flow in explaining how the routine developed

Weakness: Limited sensory details → Your opening could be enriched by including more sensory elements about the midnight atmosphere. Phrases like "slept undisturbed" and "idle glance" could be enhanced with details about the temperature, sounds, or feelings.

Exemplar: *At midnight, when the bitter winter air hung still over the sleeping village, Liam perched on his frost-covered windowsill, gazing at the vast night sky.*

#2 "Each evening, as the clock struck twelve, the constellations seemed to dissolve into a profound darkness. Not a cloud obscured them; it was as if the universe paused to exhale."

Strengths:

- Creative personification of the universe
- Vivid description of the stars' disappearance

Weakness: Underdeveloped time sequence → Your description jumps from "each evening" to "clock struck twelve" without building tension. The moment needs more build-up to match its importance in the story.

Exemplar: *Each evening, Liam would watch the minutes tick by, his heart beating faster as midnight approached. Then, as the clock struck twelve, the constellations would begin their mysterious vanishing act.*

#3 "As the stars blinked back into existence, one lingered, pulsing red against the indigo expanse. A chill crawled down Liam's spine. He wasn't just watching anymore; the stars were watching him back."

Strengths:

- Powerful ending that creates suspense
- Effective use of physical reaction to show fear

Weakness: Quick emotional transition → Your shift from observation to fear happens too suddenly. The growing sense of being watched needs more development to create stronger impact.

Exemplar: *As the stars blinked back into existence, one lingered differently - pulsing red against the indigo expanse. Slowly, certainly, a realisation crept over Liam along with the chill down his spine: he wasn't just watching anymore; the stars were watching him back.*

■ Your narrative shows promise in building an intriguing mystery around the disappearing stars. To deepen the story's impact, you could expand on Liam's emotional journey from curious observer to someone who discovers something potentially dangerous. Try adding more details about how these nightly observations have changed him over time. Consider developing the connection between the village's peaceful sleep and the strange events happening above it.

Actionable task: Rewrite the final paragraph focusing on gradually building the tension between Liam's discovery and his growing sense of being observed. Include specific details about how his feelings change from fascination to unease.

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**Score: 41/50**

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Section 2:

#1 At midnight, when the village below slept undisturbed, Liam perched on his windowsill, gazing at the night sky. His routine had started accidentally, from a restless night, an idle glance upwards, but now it had become a nightly obsession.

#2 ~~Each evening, as the clock struck twelve, the constellations seemed to dissolve into a profound darkness.~~ [Each evening, as the ancient church clock struck twelve, the constellations seemed to dissolve into a profound darkness.] Not a cloud obscured them; it was as if the universe paused to exhale.

When the stars returned, they seemed brighter, sharper, as if imbued with a secret vitality.

Tonight was different. Liam held his breath as the familiar void enveloped the heavens. But this time, the silence seemed alive. An inexplicable vibration hummed through the air, tugging at his senses. He caught a faint shimmer - a thread of light weaving through the black, like a whispered message on the edge of perception.

"What do you want me to see?" he murmured, more to himself than anything else.

#3 As the stars blinked back into existence, one lingered, pulsing red against the indigo expanse. A chill crawled down Liam's spine. He wasn't just watching anymore; the stars were watching him back.

## INTERVIEW

Section 1:

#1 (First answer - Being a good student) Strengths:

- Thoughtful exploration of the deeper meaning beyond academics
- Strong use of descriptive language to convey personal values

Weakness: Limited personal examples → Your response focuses on abstract concepts without concrete situations. Phrases like "embracing curiosity" and "turning failure into a stepping stone" would be more impactful with specific examples from your own experience.

Exemplar: ***"When I struggled with mathematics last term, I stayed after school for extra help and eventually improved my grade from a C to an A, showing how determination and resilience are key qualities of a good student."***

#2 (Second answer - Unfair treatment) Strengths:

- Clear step-by-step approach to handling injustice
- Shows empathy and consideration for others

Weakness: Vague action steps → Your answer would benefit from specific examples of intervention. The phrase "speak up and advocate" needs more detail about how you would actually help someone in this situation.

Exemplar: ***"Last week, I saw a younger student being left out during lunch. I invited them to join my table and introduced them to my friends, demonstrating how small actions can make someone feel included."***

#3 (Third answer - Historical figure) Strengths:

- Shows genuine interest in the subject
- Well-structured reasoning for choice

Weakness: One-dimensional focus → Your answer centres mainly on da Vinci's creative process without exploring other fascinating aspects of his life and work. The question "How do you nurture curiosity" could be expanded to include more specific areas of interest.

Exemplar: ***"I would ask da Vinci about his innovative flying machine designs and how his artistic skills influenced his engineering projects, as these show the unique way he combined different fields of study."***

■ Your answers show good thought process but need more personal touch. Try adding real-life examples from your own experiences to make your responses more memorable. Your answers could be longer - aim to include at least one specific example in each response. Remember that interviewers want to know about you, not just your ideas.

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**Score: 40/50**

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Section 2:

#1 Being a good student goes beyond grades or ~~memorizing~~ [memorising] facts. It means embracing curiosity and committing to the lifelong pursuit of learning. ~~A good student asks questions others overlook, seeks understanding over rote answers, and values growth over perfection.~~ [A good student actively engages with the material, seeks deeper understanding rather than memorising answers, and views mistakes as opportunities for growth.] It's about resilience, learning to adapt to challenges, turning failure into a stepping stone, and never losing the wonder of discovery. Equally, being a good student is about character: respecting teachers, collaborating with peers, and staying disciplined even when distractions call. To me, a true student doesn't just study or behave; they embody the principles of humility, determination, and an unyielding thirst for knowledge.

#2 When I see someone being treated unfairly, my first instinct is to intervene. I assess the situation to understand what's happening and ensure I approach it thoughtfully rather than impulsively. If I can, I speak up and advocate for the person, showing them they're not alone. Sometimes, it's about being a listening ear or finding someone better equipped to help. ~~Fairness and kindness are foundational to any community, and standing up against injustice reminds everyone involved—victim and perpetrator alike—that respect is not optional.~~ [In our community, fairness and kindness are essential values, and by standing up against injustice, we demonstrate that everyone deserves respect.] Injustice thrives in silence; addressing it head-on is how we build a better, kinder world for us to live happily in peace.

#3 If I could meet any historical figure, it would be Leonardo da Vinci. His genius bridged art, science, and invention, and I'd want to ask him about the interplay between creativity and discipline. Specifically, I would ask, "How do you nurture curiosity while staying committed to mastering diverse crafts?" Da Vinci's notebooks reveal a mind constantly exploring, dissecting, and imagining the impossible. ~~I'd love to understand how he perceived the connections between seemingly unrelated fields.~~ [I'm fascinated by how he discovered connections between seemingly unrelated fields.] Did his approach to art inspire his scientific endeavours, or was it the reverse?



Meeting him would be unparalleled [an unparalleled] opportunity to peer into a mind that seemed to embody limitless potential.