

WRITING 1

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 parchment shook under her fingers in bursts as she drew contours of shores: rough outlines of places that were unknown but for myth and legend."

Strengths:

- Strong sensory details through touch and movement
- Builds intrigue through mystery elements

Weakness: Limited context → Your opening lacks background about why she's carving the map. The phrase "storms below" needs more setup to help readers understand the setting.

Exemplar: *As her fingers traced the ridges of the ancient map she was carving, she recalled the tales of storms that guarded secrets in the waters below.*

#2 "Family lore had it that storms were never brutish forces of nature but protectors of knowledge lost in [time](#). It had been a very long time since she remembered that her grandfather had once said..."

Strengths:

- Good use of family history
- Introduces key story element through dialogue

Weakness: Redundant information → You repeat the same idea about storms being protectors twice. The phrase "It had been a very long time since she remembered" makes the timing unclear.

Exemplar: *Her grandfather's words echoed in her mind: "Storms are nature's guardians, protecting ancient secrets from those who would abuse them."*

#3 "This was all but complete now, this map, and out just beyond the edge of the known world, some strange marking had appeared. A place of destination never before cropped up in any record, an island that may hold the key to unlock the forgotten past."

Strengths:

- Creates suspense through discovery

- Links to larger mystery

Weakness: Unclear progression → Your ending jumps to the discovery without showing how she found it. The phrase "strange marking had appeared" doesn't tell us if she carved it or found it.

Exemplar: *As she finished the final details of the map, her knife revealed an unexpected marking beyond the known borders - an uncharted island that promised answers to the mysteries of the past.*

■ Your story has strong magical elements but needs more depth in character development. Try adding more about why finding these secrets matters to her personally. Also, you can improve the flow by connecting the grandfather's teaching more clearly to her current actions. Additionally, focus on making the discovery feel more natural by showing her reaction step by step. The ending would be stronger if you showed what she plans to do with this knowledge.

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. The parchment shook under her fingers in bursts as she drew contours of shores: rough outlines of places that were unknown but for myth and legend.

#2 ~~Family lore had it that storms were never brutish forces of nature but protectors of knowledge lost in [time](#). It had been a very long time since she remembered that~~ [According to family tradition, storms were not mere forces of nature, but guardians of ancient knowledge. Years ago,] her grandfather had once said, "Storms are not some wild whims of nature, but sentinels that keep secrets of the old world well hidden from prying eyes." He had said, "They speak to whoever is ready to hear, but you must be careful because not all secrets are meant to be found."

She began to carve, and above her, the storm clouds darkened with each stroke of her knife, as if they listened to the innermost thoughts of her. ~~The faintest sound, the whispers riding upon the wind, the language long since lost, could almost be felt.~~ [Whispers of a forgotten language seemed to ride upon the wind, barely perceptible but unmistakably present.] Her heartbeat quickened; was it all in her imagination, or did this storm speak to her?

#3 ~~This was all but complete now, this map,~~ [The map was nearly complete,] and out just beyond the edge of the known world, some strange marking had appeared. A place of destination never

before cropped up in any record, an island that may hold the key to unlock the forgotten past. She could ignore it no more; the time had come to listen as the storm called.

WRITING PIECE 2

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
- Effective use of sensory details with "soft glow"

Weakness: Limited context establishment → Your opening lacks details about where this takes place. The phrase "one thing they feared most" needs more build-up to help readers understand the setting.

Exemplar: *In the soft glow of the twin suns setting over Colony Nine, the crowd gathered around the mysterious sculpture, unaware it was crafted by their greatest fear - the machines.*

#2 "Tales told of it spoke of its relentless forward charge churning a path through the landscape, leaving naught but ruin in its wake." Strengths:

- Vivid imagery of destruction
- Good use of dramatic language

Weakness: Unclear subject reference → Your sentence starts with "Tales told of it" but readers don't know what "it" refers to. The phrase "naught but ruin" feels disconnected from the previous details.

Exemplar: *Stories spread across the colony of the machines' relentless march, their metal feet crushing everything in their path, leaving only destruction behind.*

#3 "Lana stood at the back of the crowd in awe and terror and watched this sight unfold before her." Strengths:

- Introduction of a named character
- Shows conflicting emotions

Weakness: Character development gap → Your introduction of Lana comes late in the story. The phrases "in awe and terror" tell rather than show her feelings.

Exemplar: *Trembling at the edge of the crowd, Lana's heart raced as she watched the sculpture shimmer, knowing she alone understood its true meaning.*

■ Your piece has a fascinating core idea about machines showing artistic ability. You can make your writing stronger by adding more details about the colony world in the beginning. Also, try to

bring Lana in earlier to help readers connect with her view of the machines. Your description of the sculpture could include more specific details about what it looks like and what message it sends. Additionally, you can add small details about how the other colonists react to help readers picture the scene better. The ending brings a good twist but needs more build-up throughout the story to feel natural. Try adding hints earlier about the machines wanting to communicate.

Score: 41/50

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. ~~Illuminated by the soft, golden light of the alien sunset, it was an intricate sculpture, but little did the crowd realize it was created by one thing they most feared.~~ [As the golden light bathed the sculpture, none suspected its creators were the very beings they had come to destroy.] Before them stood a twisted figure in shining metal and organic material gleaming in ~~colors~~ [colours] that seemed to dance with the fast-fading light, beautiful and terrible, mirroring this strange, hostile world they had flocked to conquer.

#2 They had marveled at the craftsmanship, never once ~~realizing~~ [realising] it was the work of the creatures they had come to destroy: the machines. ~~The man had been waging this invisible war for years,~~ [Humanity had waged this invisible war for years,] stirred into battle by the conviction that the machines were mindless and soulless monsters consumed by the single drive of man's eradication. Tales told of it spoke of its relentless forward charge churning a path through the landscape, leaving naught but ruin in its wake.

#3 What this crowd didn't know, however, was that this work of art in reality is quite different: it was a message. Lana stood at the back of the crowd in awe and terror and watched this sight unfold before her. She knew she had seen them close up, and studied their patterns; she knew they were not cold machines but growing, thinking, and feeling. And this sculpture was a testament to that growth, a sign of creativity and their will to communicate. The crowd went 'oooohed' in astonishment as Lana stepped forward, her voice slicing through the susurrus-like whispers: "It's not just a sculpture," she managed to say, her voice quivering. "It's an invitation." And with that, it clicked in place: the machines weren't attacking; they were reaching out.

INTERVIEW

Section 1:

#1 (First interview answer about family influence) Strengths:

- Effectively illustrates resilience through a specific example of father's job loss
- Shows clear connection between family experience and personal growth

Weakness: Limited emotional depth → Your response focuses mainly on external actions but could delve deeper into the emotional impact of watching your father's resilience. The phrase "without resorting to depression" oversimplifies the emotional complexity of job loss.

Exemplar: *During this challenging period, I witnessed not just my father's determination through his tireless job search, but also the emotional strength he displayed while maintaining hope and optimism for our family's future.*

#2 (Second interview answer about family tradition) Strengths:

- Clear description of the tradition's practical aspects
- Good emphasis on the emotional significance of family bonding

Weakness: Lack of specific details → Your response could benefit from more vivid details about these Sunday dinners. The phrase "have some real laughs" is too general and misses the opportunity to share memorable moments.

Exemplar: *Our Sunday dinners are filled with cherished moments, from Mum's signature roast to Dad's weekly stories about his childhood, creating lasting memories that strengthen our family bonds.*

#3 (Third interview answer about inspiration) Strengths:

- Strong focus on values learned from mother
- Clear connection between mother's background and current values

Weakness: Repetitive value listing → Your response lists similar values multiple times without expanding on them. The phrases "tremendous work ethic" and "hard work" appear without distinctive context.

Exemplar: *My mother's journey from financial hardship to success taught me that true achievement comes not just from hard work, but from maintaining authenticity and treating everyone with dignity along the way.*

■ Your responses would benefit from more detailed personal anecdotes to bring your experiences to life. Consider sharing specific conversations, moments, or events that illustrate your points. Adding these details would make your answers more memorable and authentic. Try to expand each answer by including how these experiences shaped your current behaviour or decisions.

Score: 39/50

Section 2:

How has your family influenced you in how you face the challenges of life? Provide an example. ~~My family taught me to use determination and patience in overcoming a challenge.~~ [My family has taught me to approach challenges with determination and patience.] Growing up, I watched my parents go through various challenges that made them resilient and always seemed to go through to better days. ~~One notable case was when~~ [A significant example occurred when] my father lost his job in a harsh economic period. He did odd jobs wherever and networked ~~without resorting to depression~~ [while maintaining a positive outlook] until he found a good job. He taught me the persistence that it requires in one's life not to get sad about any turn that life may take. #1

One very important tradition or habit of your family? One of the most important traditions in my family is that which is associated with Sunday dinners. Every Sunday, however busy a week it may have been, the dinner table would still bring us together at least for a meal and sharing time with one another. This is time to reconnect, have some real laughs, and be able to spend some time together ~~sans~~ [without] diversion. It is a tradition that has always meant stability and warmth, because no matter what happens during the week, we all know we have a place where we all get together for the purpose of supporting each other. #2

Who inspires you the most in your family, and what have you learned from this person? ~~She had always been my biggest inspiration;~~ [My mother has always been my greatest inspiration;] reared under economically ~~constraint~~ [constrained] circumstances and yet leading herself to build an economically satisfactory life for herself and her family[,] I admire many things in my mother: tremendous work ethic combined with kindness is one. More than anything else, she instilled in me the values of staying grounded irrespective of how much success one acquires and respectfully treating other persons. Her wisdom ~~molded~~ [moulded] the way I carry my life, with hard work, humility, and respect for others. #3