WEEK 5 -5th February Homework: Year 6 Scholarship Specialisation Final Sprint

## Section 1:

#1 (First paragraph) Strengths:

- Your opening questions effectively grab attention and create emotional appeal
- Your clear thesis statement presents three main arguments

Weaknesses: Underdeveloped Hook  $\rightarrow$  Your opening relies heavily on emotional questions without providing concrete context about the plastic problem. The phrase "silly mistake" downplays the severity of the issue.

Instead of "Ever think about the multitude of animals that suffer because of our silly mistake?", try: "Each year, millions of marine animals suffer devastating consequences from plastic pollution - a crisis we can no longer ignore."

#2 (Second paragraph) Strengths:

- Your use of specific evidence from WWF strengthens credibility
- Your logical connection between species loss and food chain impacts

Weaknesses: Limited Development → Your discussion about biodiversity and food chain impacts needs more detailed examples. The phrase "Without giving aid to these species" doesn't clearly connect to your main argument.

Instead of "Without giving aid to these species", try: "If we fail to protect these endangered marine species, the delicate balance of ocean ecosystems will collapse, leading to widespread environmental damage."

#3 (Third paragraph) Strengths:

- Your clear explanation of why plastic isn't biodegradable
- Your examination of different disposal methods

Weaknesses: Abrupt Transitions  $\rightarrow$  Your shift between topics needs smoother connections. The phrase "The only solution would be incineration" appears suddenly without proper lead-in.

Instead of "The only solution would be incineration", try: "While some suggest incineration as an alternative disposal method, this approach creates its own set of environmental challenges."

■ Your persuasive piece shows promise in highlighting the dangers of plastic pollution. To make your writing more convincing, you could add more vivid examples in your first paragraph to help readers picture the problem clearly. Also, when discussing marine species, you could describe specific cases of how plastic affects sea creatures. Additionally, your section about plastic being non-biodegradable would be stronger if you connected it more clearly to everyday life. Your conclusion could be more powerful by suggesting simple actions readers can take. Try to make smoother connections between your ideas using words like 'furthermore' and 'moreover'. Remember to keep your tone serious throughout - avoid phrases like "silly mistake" when discussing serious issues. Your ending could include a strong call to action, telling readers exactly what they can do to help solve this problem.

**Score: 41/50** 

Section 2:

Is Plastic Our Friend Or Rival?

Ever think about [Have you ever thought about] the multitude of animals that suffer because of our silly mistake [our devastating environmental choices]? The torture that animals have to live through because they have a piece of plastic in their throat. Our constant unanswered dilemma about plastic causes suffering to all of our marine and land animals and we need to make a move quickly. [The ongoing plastic crisis causes immense suffering to marine and land animals, demanding immediate action.] #1 There are a myriad of reasons for this topic and I will be stating out three reasons to why we must [why we should] consider plastic as our rival. Clearly, plastic can cause life threatening harm to our fellow species and could create a mass extinction. Moreover, plastic is not biodegradable and thus, takes an extensive amount of time to decompose. Plastic impacts the food chain which would eventually leave [lead] to impacting ourselves. Lets [Let's] go straight into the impacts of plastic.

#2 As a starter, plastic causes life threatening harm to our fellow species. According to the WWF, 81 out of 123 marine species are known to have eaten or been entangled in plastic, and all seven sea turtle species are affected. Without giving aid to these species, it may reduce the biodiversity of certain species as well as having a disruption on the food chain. Without certain types of species, the animals that rely on them as a food source are impacted, creating imbalances in the ecosystem. Therefore, we must give support for these helpless animals as they can create life long damage to other species.

#3 Additionally, plastic is not biodegradable. It is considered non biodegradable as the strong chemical bonds within its polymer structure prevent micro-organisms from effectively breaking it down. Usually, it would take an extensive time to decompose, allowing it to deal more damage before fully breaking down. A major consequence of plastic not being biodegradable is the accumulation of plastic waste in the environment, leading to pollution of soil, waterways, and marine ecosystems. The only solution would be incineration. [While incineration offers one possible solution, it comes with significant drawbacks.] However, that can build some problems on its own. When burned, plastic spews pollutants into the air – causing irreparable harm to the health of our communities. Hence, we should ban the usage of plastic as it is not biodegradable.

Finally, plastic can hurt ourselves. According to the UNDP, the plastic that we throw away significantly harms ourselves due to the plastic that may be in the fish that we eat. UNDP states that the average human consumes about 2,000 micro plastics annually. So, it wasn't much of a surprise when, in 2022, scientists from the Netherlands and the U.K. announced they had found tiny plastic particles in living humans, in two places where they hadn't been seen before: deep inside the lungs of surgical patients, and in the blood of anonymous donors. Neither of the two studies answered the question of possible harm. But together they signalled a shift in the focus of concern about plastics toward the cloud of airborne dust particles we live in, some of them so small they can penetrate deep inside the body and even inside cells, in ways that larger micro plastics can't. Thus, we must consider the usage of plastic as it can do incredible damage.

Based on the analysis above, we can clearly understand that plastic is harmful to fish, not biodegradable and it also harms us. By reducing the usage of plastic, we can prevent all of these major problems and get ready for a clean environment.