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

□ WRITING PIECE 1 - FEEDBACK

Section 1:

#1: "Picture this: it's the 1980s and everyone isn't on there phones or devices and instead everyone's talking to each other"

Strengths:

- Your opening engages readers with a vivid scene-setting technique
- Your comparison between past and present is clear

Weaknesses: Informal tone and repetitive phrasing \rightarrow Your use of "everyone" twice makes the sentence wordy. The informal structure weakens your persuasive impact. The phrase "Picture this" doesn't suit a persuasive piece.

Exemplar: "In the 1980s, people engaged in face-to-face conversations rather than focusing on mobile phones and devices."

#2: "These young minds cannot be looking at a screen. These kids used to be filled with bright eyes"

Strengths:

- Your emotive language creates impact
- Your imagery of "bright eyes" is powerful

Weaknesses: Undeveloped argument \rightarrow Your claim about children's eyes lacks support. The statement "cannot be looking at a screen" sounds commanding without explaining why. You've made claims without giving reasons for your viewpoint.

Exemplar: "Extended screen time can affect children's engagement with their surroundings, potentially dimming their natural curiosity and enthusiasm."

#3: "So, the solution is simple stop using phones."

Strengths:

- Your direct approach shows confidence
- Your suggestion offers a clear action point

Weaknesses: Oversimplified solution \rightarrow Your conclusion jumps to an extreme solution without considering balanced approaches. The phrase "simple stop" overlooks the complexity of modern technology use.

Exemplar: "While reducing phone usage is important, we can create healthy boundaries that balance technology with other activities."

■ Your persuasive piece shows passion for the topic of screen time management. However, you could strengthen your argument by providing specific examples of alternative activities beyond just "reading books and playing sport". Also, consider addressing potential counterarguments about the benefits of technology in moderation. Try developing your ideas about how screen time affects children by giving concrete examples. Additionally, your piece would benefit from a more balanced approach rather than suggesting complete elimination of phones. You could improve the middle section by explaining why traditional activities are beneficial. Focus on building stronger connections between your ideas to create a more convincing argument. Your conclusion needs more specific suggestions for managing screen time effectively.

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Section 2:

Technology and Screen Time: How Much is Too Much?

#1 Picture this: it's the 1980s and everyone isn't on there phones or devices and instead everyone's talking to each other [During the 1980s, people engaged in meaningful conversations with each other rather than focusing on phones and devices] having conversations you might think this is how it is today right? WRONG [However, this is not the case] now people are spending far too much time on there [their] phones. Even children!

#2 These young minds cannot be looking at a screen. These kids used to be filled with bright eyes absorbing the information around them but now their eyes are pale with no life in them. [Children once showed bright-eyed enthusiasm whilst learning about their surroundings, but excessive screen time has dulled their natural curiosity.] Which is why it is imperative that there should be limits for screen time.

#3 So, the solution is simple stop using phones. [Therefore, we need to carefully manage our phone usage.] By reading books and playing sport, they could be much more productive and enjoy them selves [themselves] in a different way. They can learn new things and understand

more new things. So that is why you must stop using phones now! [This is why we should establish healthy boundaries with our phone usage.]

□ WRITING PIECE 2 - FEEDBACK

Section 1:

#1: "Plastic should undoubtedly be banned because it harms our environment and us. Lets take an innocent sea turtle for an example."

Strengths:

- Opens with a clear position statement
- Uses emotive language effectively with "innocent sea turtle"

Weaknesses: Underdeveloped argument \rightarrow Your opening lacks specific details about how plastic harms both the environment and humans. The sea turtle example feels rushed and needs more depth to be convincing.

Exemplar: Plastic must be banned immediately as it causes devastating damage to our oceans, wildlife, and human health. Consider the heartbreaking case of sea turtles, whose population has declined by thousands due to plastic pollution.

#2: "Now you might be thinking why you can't just recycle plastic? Well, plastic cannot be recycled repeatedly and eventually you will have to throw it out."

Strengths:

- Anticipates reader's counter-argument
- Provides a logical response

Weaknesses: Incomplete reasoning \rightarrow Your counter-argument needs more detail about why recycling isn't a complete solution. You mention throwing plastic out but don't explain where it ends up or its lasting impact.

Exemplar: While recycling may seem like an easy solution, most plastics can only be recycled once or twice before losing quality. This means countless pieces of plastic still end up polluting our lands and oceans for hundreds of years.

#3: "So, if there are other alternatives to plastic STOP USING PLASTIC NOW!"

Strengths:

- Shows passion for the topic
- Provides a clear call to action

Weaknesses: Abrupt conclusion \rightarrow Your ending feels rushed and shouty. The sudden command doesn't persuade readers effectively. You need a stronger ending that brings together your main points.

Exemplar: With excellent alternatives like glass and reusable bags readily available, we must act now to protect our planet by choosing plastic-free options in our daily lives.

■ Your persuasive piece shows good passion for the topic, but needs more depth to convince readers fully. You could improve your writing by giving clear examples of how plastic harms the environment. Also, you could explain more about what happens to plastic waste in our oceans and land. Additionally, talk about how glass and reusable bags help solve the problem. Your piece would be stronger if you added details about why sea turtles and other animals get confused by plastic. Try to end your writing with a powerful message that makes readers want to take action. Remember to use linking words like 'furthermore' and 'moreover' to connect your ideas smoothly. Make your writing flow better by explaining one point fully before moving to the next.

Score: 37/50

Section 2:

The Environment: Should Plastic Be Banned?

#1 Plastic should undoubtedly be banned because it harms our environment and us. Lets [Plastic should undoubtedly be banned because it causes severe damage to our environment and human health. Let's] take an innocent sea turtle for an example. It thinks it has spotted a jelly fish in the ocean but no, it is a plastic bad [bag] someone threw in the ocean. The sea turtle eats it and unfortunately dies. This is the reason why plastic is so harmful and must be banned ASAP.

#2 Now you might be thinking why you can't just recycle plastic? Well, plastic cannot be recycled repeatedly and eventually you will have to throw it out. [Well, plastic can only be recycled a limited number of times before it becomes unusable and ends up in landfills.]

So, you must stop using plastic now. [Therefore, we must stop using plastic immediately.] There are also other alternatives for plastic. Like glass, which can be recycled repetitively [repeatedly] without loosing quality. An easy way to go shopping is to use reusable bags that can be used forever.

#3 So, if there are other alternatives to plastic STOP USING PLASTIC NOW! [With these sustainable alternatives readily available, we must act now to eliminate plastic use and protect our environment for future generations.]

□ WRITING PIECE 3

Section 1:

#1 "Education & Learning: Is It Better to Learn at School or at Home?" Strengths:

- Clear and engaging title that directly presents the topic
- Effective use of a thought-provoking question to draw readers in

Weaknesses: Limited context in introduction \rightarrow Your opening lacks a clear stance and background information. You jump straight into reasons without setting up your argument properly.

Exemplar: "While both school and home learning environments offer unique benefits, learning at home provides superior opportunities for academic success due to enhanced focus and a more supportive environment."

#2 "Firstly, focusing is important and with a class of 30 or more kids which are constantly chatting..." Strengths:

- Good use of transition word "Firstly" to organise ideas
- Relevant example about classroom size

Weaknesses: Underdeveloped argument \rightarrow Your point about focus needs more detail about how home learning specifically improves concentration. You mention classroom distractions but don't explain how home learning solves this problem.

Exemplar: "At home, students can create their ideal study environment, free from classroom distractions, allowing them to fully concentrate on their work and develop deeper understanding of subjects."

#3 "Lastly, the environment at home is much better than at school because at home it is just you and your parents..." Strengths:

- Good transition to final point using "Lastly"
- Addresses important social aspects of learning environments

Weaknesses: One-sided argument \rightarrow Your discussion about home environment only presents negative aspects of school without acknowledging potential benefits of social interaction and peer learning.

Exemplar: "While school environments can present challenges like bullying, home learning provides a safe, supportive space where students can focus on their studies while still maintaining social connections through organised activities."

■ Your persuasive piece needs stronger evidence to support your claims. You could improve by giving specific examples of how home learning helps students succeed. Also, try to make your introduction more engaging by starting with an interesting fact or question about learning environments. Your paragraphs would be more convincing if you added examples from your own experience or others you know. Additionally, consider addressing possible counterarguments to make your writing more balanced. You could strengthen your second paragraph by explaining exactly how home learning creates better focus. Your conclusion needs work too - try ending with a strong call to action that convinces readers to support home learning. Remember to link your ideas clearly between paragraphs using transition words.

Score: 36/50

Section 2:

#1 Education & Learning: Is It Better to Learn at School or at Home? [Education and Learning: Which Provides Better Learning - School or Home?]

#2 I think it is an absolute must to learn at home than school because of 2 reasons focusing and environment. Firstly, focusing is important and with a class of 30 or more kids which are constantly chatting you will not be able to focus or concentrate on any of your studies. [Learning at home is essential because it offers two major advantages: better focus and a more suitable environment. When studying at home, you avoid the constant chatter of 30 or more classmates, which makes it much easier to concentrate on your studies.]

Eventually, you will get stressed and not be able to do tasks and get worse grades in school. [This lack of focus in school can lead to increased stress, difficulty completing tasks, and ultimately poorer grades.]

#3 Lastly, the environment at home is much better than at school because at home it is just you and your parents. [The home environment proves far more conducive to learning, as you have the undivided attention and support of your parents.] However, at school you must worry about bullying which is a big problem, lack of resources, student conflict and cyber bullying and with all of that in your head, it is hard to think about other things so it would be amazing if that was all out of your head. [In contrast, school presents numerous challenges such as bullying, limited resources, student conflicts, and cyberbullying - issues that can significantly distract from learning.] So, that's why homeschooling should be happening now. [Therefore, homeschooling offers a clear advantage for effective learning and student wellbeing.]