

□ WRITING PIECE 1 - FEEDBACK

Section 1:

#1 (First paragraph) Strengths:

- Strong emotional appeal through vivid imagery of arriving home tired
- Effective hook that creates reader connection through relatable scenario

Weaknesses: Underdeveloped Main Argument → Your opening presents homework as negative but lacks clear focus on why it should be banned. Your phrases like "mounds and mounds of homework sheets" and "none match your dreams" need stronger connection to your main argument about banning homework.

Exemplar: *After a long school day, students face hours of homework that not only exhausts them physically but also prevents them from engaging in meaningful activities, making a complete ban on homework necessary.*

#2 (Second paragraph) Strengths:

- Clear topic sentence about impact on pursuing passions
- Good solution provided for the issue raised

Weaknesses: Limited Evidence → Your argument about homework preventing students from pursuing passions needs more real-life examples. Your phrase "rid you of the time required" could be strengthened with specific examples of how homework impacts these activities.

Exemplar: *When students spend their evenings completing maths worksheets, they miss crucial practice time for their piano lessons or coding projects, directly hampering their skill development in these areas.*

#3 (Fourth paragraph) Strengths:

- Good connection between homework and mental health
- Clear cause-and-effect relationship established

Weaknesses: Unsupported Claims → Your discussion about homework leading to depression needs more backing. Your phrase "this could end up leading to depression" makes a serious claim that requires more detail about how homework affects mental health.

Exemplar: *The constant pressure of pending homework creates anxiety, as students worry about completion during class time instead of focusing on new learning.*

■ Your persuasive piece shows promise in identifying key issues with homework, but needs stronger development of arguments. You could improve the first paragraph by clearly stating your position on banning homework and its main impacts. Also, your second paragraph about passions and activities would be more convincing with specific examples of students struggling to balance homework with other activities. Additionally, when discussing mental health impacts, you could describe specific ways homework affects student wellbeing. Your conclusion could be stronger by restating your main points about banning homework more firmly. Try to connect your ideas more smoothly between paragraphs using linking words. Focus on providing clear examples throughout your writing to support your arguments.

Score: 41/50

Section 2:

Should Homework Be Banned In School?

#1 Imagine arriving home on a blistering hot day, yearning for a comfortable lie on your couch, only to be greeted by ~~mounds and mounds of~~ [piles of] homework sheets. Think about the despair of going through each and every one, only to ~~realise~~ [realise] that none match your dreams and pursuits, and all of them taunt you by ridding you of free time and your mental wellbeing, ~~at~~ ~~three~~ [these are] pivotal reasons why homework should be banned in schools.

#2 Firstly, for a child trying to devote time and effort to passions such as music or robotics, piles of homework rid you of the time required. ~~This shows that~~ [This means] children cannot chase their dreams as they are being encouraged to, and when they do have the spare time, the uncompleted homework will linger on their mind, eliminating the chance of a productive session. A fix for this would be to tailor-make each student's homework to their strengths, weaknesses and passions.

Secondly, children could miss out on many opportunities such as playing sports with their friends because you are required to aimlessly sit and finish homework. When surveyed, students claimed that on average it takes them 3-4 hours to complete homework tasks, ruining people's time to enjoy themselves or exercise, which can lead to people being unfit. A solution would be to either provide less homework than now, or spread the homework over the course of the week rather than individual days.

#3 Thirdly, since homework takes so long to complete, this can lead to isolation from the outside world while doing tasks. Furthermore, this could end up leading to depression in students and young adolescents. Homework also tends to linger on people's minds when not completed, reducing mental wellbeing and during class, ~~you~~ [their] focus might not be on the teacher, but on the sheet of homework ~~you~~ [they] forgot to give in.

All in all, homework is a task that should be banned or mended, as it undermines the purpose of school by blocking students from chasing their dreams and passions, rids students of free time that could be used to catch up with friends or exercise and stay fit.

□ WRITING PIECE 2 - FEEDBACK

Section 1:

#1 (First paragraph): Strengths:

- Strong opening hook with vivid imagery of smartphone's negative effects
- Clear thesis statement presenting three main arguments

Weaknesses: Rushed Development → Your opening paragraph jumps too quickly from the attention-grabbing hook to listing your main points. The link between smartphones harming sleep and their effects in school needs more detail. Your phrase "this is the harsh reality" could be better connected to school impacts.

Exemplar: *The harsh reality of smartphone use extends beyond sleep disruption into our schools, where these devices pose three serious problems: they weaken our thinking skills, limit our creativity, and fuel both online and offline bullying.*

#2 (Second paragraph): Strengths:

- Good topic sentence introducing attention span issue
- Links smartphone use directly to learning impact

Weaknesses: Unsupported Claims → Your writing mentions changes in attention span without showing how smartphones directly cause this in schools. The phrase "made worse by the loss of important cognitive abilities" needs specific examples of mental skills that students are losing.

Exemplar: *In our classrooms, students constantly checking social media apps find themselves unable to focus on lengthy readings or complex maths problems, as their minds have grown used to quick, short bursts of information.*

#3 (Third paragraph): Strengths:

- Clear focus on creativity concerns
- Current examples with AI technologies

Weaknesses: Overstated Impact → Your writing claims skills become "useless" without showing balanced views. The phrase "skills aren't required anymore" overlooks how AI tools can be used alongside human creativity in schools.

Exemplar: *While AI tools like ChatGPT can help with schoolwork, overreliance on these technologies in schools may prevent students from developing their own creative problem-solving abilities in subjects like art and maths.*

■ Your persuasive piece shows promise in identifying important concerns about smartphones in schools. Your opening grabs attention well, but you could strengthen your arguments by giving more real examples from school life. Try describing specific situations where phones distract students during lessons or how cyberbullying happens during school hours. Also, consider adding what teachers and students say about phone use in class. Your third paragraph about AI needs more balance - think about both good and bad effects. Additionally, your conclusion could suggest how schools might help students learn proper phone use instead of just banning them. Remember to connect each problem clearly to school learning and student wellbeing.

Score: 40/50

Section 2:

Should smartphones be banned in school? #1 ~~Imagine the ominous glare of the sleek, obsidian smartphone harming your fatigued eyes while the hazardous ringing and buzzing rids you of your longed good night's sleep.~~ [Imagine how the harsh glow of your sleek, black smartphone strains your tired eyes whilst its constant ringing and buzzing prevents you from getting proper sleep.] This is the harsh reality of owning a smartphone, exacerbated by the effects of one in school. It rids you of the many mental strategies that you require, steals your creativity and opens the gateway to being bullied, both online and offline, three pivotal reasons why I believe smartphones should be banned in schools.

#2 Firstly, various apps like social media are quite infamous for reducing people's attention span. In fact, the average human attention span is 8 seconds, from 12 seconds in 2000. This is surprisingly less than the 9 second attention span of a goldfish! ~~This is made worse by the loss of important cognitive abilities and mental strategies, as today's standard smartphones have apps that could do them for you.~~ [This problem worsens in school as students rely on smartphone apps instead of developing crucial thinking skills and mental strategies.]

#3 ~~Secondly, recent innovations such as Artificial Intelligence steals your creativity.~~ [Secondly, recent innovations such as Artificial Intelligence steal your creativity.] AIs like ChatGPT and Gemini are able to think for themselves, solve problems and create images and videos, making skills and passions like art, coding, filmmaking and maths useless today. This could lead to people who would like to develop their skills lead to depression, as they realise their skills aren't required anymore.

Thirdly, smartphones in schools open the gateway to being bullied. In owning a smartphone, people could get bullied online through cyberbullying and people could judge other people's

phones by their colour or model, stemming from jealousy and envy. Without phones, people could be bullied for being the odd one out in not owning one.

All in all, a solution that restores mental abilities, unleashes creativity and removes various forms of bullying is to ban smartphones in school.