

Section 1:

**#1 "Dear Honourable Council Members, Lately, cases have been rising of homeless people all around our community. Is this not an issue that should be solved? People who have helped our town in some kind of way are ending up on the streets, having to fend for themselves. Do you not see people begging as you walk through the streets – how could someone be so blind? Wake up! See the human beings sleeping on the cold, cement floor, eating scraps from the local bins and freezing from the harsh winds and heavy rains. Many unfortunate people have become victims to homelessness and this pandemic needs to end."**

Strengths: Your opening paragraph effectively establishes an urgent tone through rhetorical questions. Your vivid descriptions of people sleeping on cement floors create powerful imagery.

Weaknesses: Your repeated questions like "how could someone be so blind?" and commands like "Wake up!" may alienate council members. These confrontational phrases could make readers defensive rather than sympathetic to your cause. Using a less accusatory approach might help council members feel more inclined to consider your perspective.

Exemplar: *Instead of demanding "Wake up!", you could write: "I invite you to consider the human beings sleeping on cold cement floors, eating scraps from bins and enduring harsh weather conditions in our community."*

**#2 "Emily used to help the soldiers that were injured while fighting in Afghanistan. Today, she roams the streets with her two little daughters, finding food and a comfortable place to sleep. Has Emily not helped our country enough? Why is this happening to her? The sufferers of homelessness should NOT have to go through this! They are not statistics! They are human beings! People just like us, that deserve to have a real home and edible food."**

Strengths: Your specific example about Emily adds a personal dimension to your argument. Your emphasis on the humanity of homeless people is compelling.

Weaknesses: Limited development → While you introduce Emily's story, you don't fully explain how she became homeless or what specific challenges she faces. This makes it difficult for council members to understand what specific solutions might help her situation. Providing

more context about Emily's circumstances would strengthen your argument about why council action is needed.

Exemplar: *"Emily, who dedicated years helping injured soldiers returning from Afghanistan, now roams our streets with her two young daughters after losing her home due to rising rental costs and limited support services."*

**#3 "In the views of those affected, the council members are negligent and obdurate. You do not change things in the worry of losing in politics. People are not politics! They are substantially greater and are not comparable. The establishment of more homes and apartments would aid those that have nowhere to go. How can you sleep in a warm, cozy bed while people outside are freezing and starving? How can you not show empathy?"**

Strengths: You provide a specific solution with your suggestion about establishing more homes and apartments. Your passion for the issue comes through clearly.

Weaknesses: Unclear reasoning → You state that "the establishment of more homes and apartments would aid those that have nowhere to go" but don't explain how this could be accomplished or what specific actions you want council members to take. Without specific, practical suggestions, council members might agree with your concern but remain unsure about what steps to take.

Exemplar: *"I believe our community would benefit from a council initiative to convert unused buildings into affordable housing units and implement a rent assistance program for vulnerable residents like Emily."*

■ Your letter shows genuine passion for addressing homelessness in your community, which is commendable. However, you could strengthen your persuasive impact by balancing emotional appeals with specific, actionable suggestions. Consider revising your tone to be more collaborative rather than confrontational. Council members might be more receptive if you acknowledge any existing efforts they've made while suggesting improvements. Your letter would benefit from explaining exactly what you want council members to do—build more housing, fund specific programs, or change particular policies. Also, try organising your ideas more clearly by grouping related points together. For example, put all your descriptions of the problem in one section, your suggestions for solutions in another, and your call to action in a third. Additionally, consider adding a clear statement at the beginning that summarises your main request, such as "I am writing to urge the council to address our community's growing homelessness crisis through immediate housing initiatives."

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**Score: 40/50**

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Section 2:

Dear Honourable Council Members,

Lately, cases have been rising of homeless people all around our community. Is this not an issue that should be solved? People who have helped our town in some kind of way are ending up on the streets, having to fend for themselves. Do you not see people begging as you walk through the streets – ~~how could someone be so blind?~~ [how can we overlook this reality?] ~~Wake up!~~ [I urge you to notice] See the human beings sleeping on the cold, cement floor, eating scraps from the local bins and freezing from the harsh winds and heavy rains. Many unfortunate people have become victims to homelessness and this ~~pandemic~~ [crisis] needs to end. #1

Emily used to help the soldiers that were injured while fighting in Afghanistan. Today, she roams the streets with her two little daughters, finding food and a comfortable place to sleep. Has Emily not helped our country enough? Why is this happening to her? The sufferers of homelessness should NOT have to go through this! They are not statistics! They are human beings! People just like us, ~~that~~ [who] deserve to have a real home and edible food. #2

In the views of those affected, the council members are ~~negligent and obdurate~~ [perceived as unresponsive]. You do not change things in the worry of losing in politics. People are not politics! They are substantially greater and are not comparable. The establishment of more homes and apartments would aid those ~~that~~ [who] have nowhere to go. How can you sleep in a warm, cozy bed while people outside are freezing and starving? How can you not show empathy? #3

We are all part of one community. We are all one species. We are all equal. No one should have to deal with the consequences of homelessness. Additional houses and apartments would help these people immensely. Show some compassion and help your people. Is this not your job? Is this not a change that you want to see? Help this community thrive!

Sincerely, The Hidden Testimonies.