

Writing Feedback

DAY 7 | 21st of April | HOLIDAY WRITING HOMEWORK

Section 1:

#1 (First paragraph) Strengths:

- Your vivid contrast between past and present creates a powerful opening that captures the reader's attention.
- You effectively use emotive language to establish the devastating impact of pollution on the community.

Weakness: Inconsistent tense usage → Your writing shifts between past and present tense, which creates confusion for the reader. For example, "Today, the down is barren" followed by "Warning signs replaced picnic areas" mixes present and past tense. Additionally, some sentences like "It grew a throbbing laceration within their hearts" use metaphors that feel disconnected from the surrounding text.

Exemplar: *"Today, the town lies barren without the creek, as noxious gases blanket the sky. Warning signs now stand where picnic areas once welcomed families, and the only visitors are environmental scientists measuring samples with grim expressions."*

#2 (Third paragraph - Jamie Wang quote) Strengths:

- You incorporate expert testimony which builds credibility (ethos) for your argument.
- The quote effectively conveys the severity of the situation through a professional perspective.

Weakness: Underdeveloped quote integration → While you include an expert quote, it lacks proper context and introduction. The quote itself contains mixed metaphors ("plastic mess trap") and doesn't clearly explain the scientific aspects of the pollution. Additionally, the phrase "commented her professional concerns with despair" feels awkward and doesn't effectively set up the quote.

Exemplar: *"Marine toxicologist Dr. Jamie Wang, who has studied freshwater ecosystems for 25 years, expressed grave concern about the situation: 'This is one of the most severe cases of freshwater pollution I've documented in my career. The*

concentration of heavy metals and plastics has created a toxic environment where only algae can thrive.'"

#3 (Fifth and sixth paragraphs - Wong Mei's story) Strengths:

- Your inclusion of a personal story humanises the environmental issue and shows real-world impacts.
- The direct quote from a local parent adds emotional weight to your argument.

Weakness: Excessive emotional language → Your description of the health impacts uses overly dramatic language that diminishes credibility. Phrases like "rashes erupting like volcanic explosions" and "excruciating pain throughout their lifeless bodies, feverishly mumbling to sleep" feel exaggerated and melodramatic rather than factual. The section also lacks specific medical information about the health conditions.

Exemplar: *"Local mother Wong Mei describes watching her six-year-old son develop severe skin irritation after brief exposure to the creek water. 'He scratches until he bleeds and struggles to sleep,' she recounts. 'No parent should have to witness their child suffering from something that could be prevented with proper environmental protections.'"*

■ Your feature article has a promising foundation with strong descriptive elements and inclusion of both expert testimony and personal stories. However, the overall piece would benefit from more focused paragraphs following a clearer PEEL structure (Point, Evidence, Explanation, Link). Also, your writing contains numerous metaphors that sometimes obscure rather than clarify your message. Try to maintain a consistent tone throughout - your piece shifts between journalistic reporting, poetic imagery, and emotional appeals. Additionally, your conclusion offers a call to action but lacks specific recommendations for what readers can do. You could strengthen this by providing concrete ways community members can contribute to creek restoration efforts. The article would also benefit from including opposing viewpoints to create a more balanced presentation before countering with your persuasive stance.

Overall Score: 42/50

Section 2:

Dilapidated Creek: How our beloved waterway became a ruin

Five years ago, Silverwater Creek was pulsating with life – children's laughter filled the town with delight, as families gathered picnics beneath the rays of beacon light. Today, the ~~down~~ [town] is barren without the creek, as noxious gases cover the blanketed sky. Warning signs replaced picnic areas and the only visitors ~~were~~ [are] the environmental scientists measuring samples with grim expressions. It transformed from a lake that was teeming with life to a dystopian demolition, leaving the community shattered. ~~It grew a throbbing laceration within their hearts, how their local hub of recreation was a dump of garbage overflowing the banks of the river.~~ [It left a deep wound within their hearts, as their local hub of recreation became a dump of garbage overflowing the banks of the river.] Where life once was teeming with enthralling beauty, now turned into a place where toxicity thrives rapidly spreading – to the extinction of the creek, left desecrated.
#1

The industrial contaminants flowing into the Creek ~~decimates~~ [decimate] what was a living ecosystem, with a wealth of biodiversity. Environmental surveys around the area conducted in 2017 and 2018 documented that 37 fish species, 21 types of aquatic seaweed and a thriving population of amphibians lived in the Creek. Last month's recent survey ~~conducted~~ [found] that 89% of all aquatic life that was supported by the Creek has completely dissipated and those that continue to survive are stuck in a wormhole of struggles. The once heard echoes of the kookaburras and the chorus of frogs have fallen drastically ~~unable~~ [as they are unable] to develop their eggs within the polystyrene drowning them to their death.

Marine toxicologist Jamie Wang ~~commented her professional concerns with despair~~ [expressed her professional concerns with despair], "How can a thriving community collapse into this plastic mess trap, that emanates the scent of danger lingering nearby. Metals, Plastic and algae continue to thrive within the area – one of the most severe cases of freshwater pollution I've documented in my 25-year career." #2

This catastrophic collapse within the environment is ~~facade~~ [a harbinger] for the plastic future struggles that are looming nearer. Damaging the thresholds of an entire ecological community – marking the disarray that they have faced. It's a reality that displaces communities from their bonded connection to nature. The ecological devastation ~~raging~~ [raging] through the aquatic crops of life serves a stark warning to start acting now rather than facing the reality.

~~Proponents~~ [The consequences] of this lake's severe condition ~~has~~ [have] struck disaster with diseases, threatening locals around the area. Thousands of families are struggling to cope ~~up~~ with the contamination burdened on their crippling children. Facing the debt of a lack of medical support and reliability. Local mother Wong Mei describes after watching her six-year-old son sobbing with pain, as the rashes erupting like volcanic explosions enduring the pain echoing through her heart due to a brief excursion. #3

"He scratches until he bleeds, erupting with pain to sleep," she recounts, her voice breaking. "No parent should have to witness their child suffering when it could be prevented by safety measures."

These quotes describe the mental toll these serious illnesses have taken on the parents. Their children are barricaded from the walls of reality and their playground of cheers and jubilant smiles. ~~Excruciating pain throughout their lifeless bodies, feverishly mumbling to sleep.~~ [They endure excruciating pain, feverishly mumbling as they try to sleep.] Diseases that are spreading around the community ~~is~~ [are] a severe cause of the pain that many families have to face before the reality arrives for everyone.

As the sunset ~~ecoplays~~ [casts] its beauty across the Silverwater Creek, no longer remembered for its pristine environment but the damaging effects that ~~plays~~ [play] a role within the body of their community. The chemical cocktail that seeps through the groundwater, inevitably injecting bodies with poison. The children of Silverwater Heights grow up learning that their second home was stolen from them – the cool embrace of the rippling water, now flushed with the toxic burden and a collective failure to react and preserve. We stand at a critical ~~highway~~ [crossroads] with two paths that can no longer be postponed. Either we face the cost of inaction within our ecosystems, declining health and the community heartbreak. Or we choose to push forward through the obstacles, replacing negligence with accountability and regulatory conditions should replace the willful blindness and the determination must replace resignation. Silverwater Creek can be reborn, and every solution can replace this atrocity. So Silverwater Creek here we come!