

Section 1

#1 **Strengths:** Your opening paragraph establishes a clear purpose and shows passion for your cause. Your rhetorical question effectively challenges the reader to consider alternatives.

Weaknesses: Inappropriate tone → Your tone becomes accusatory rather than persuasive when you ask "What are you going to change our glorious library into?" This confrontational approach might alienate Councillor Smith rather than encourage cooperation. The final sentence also makes a broad claim without evidence that "no one will use" the shopping centre.

Exemplar: *I am writing on behalf of the committee of young minds at Sharolland Public School to express our deep concern about the proposed closure of Sharolland Community Library. We believe this valuable community resource should be preserved rather than replaced with a shopping centre that may not serve our community's educational needs.*

#2 **Strengths:** Your third paragraph effectively presents a logical argument about traffic concerns. You consider multiple perspectives (school drop-off, pick-up, and pathways).

Weaknesses: Emotional manipulation → The final sentence "Would you do that to innocent children?" attempts to guilt the councillor rather than persuade through reasoned argument. This approach weakens your credibility and may seem manipulative rather than constructive.

Exemplar: *The placement of a shopping centre next to a school would create significant traffic problems. School drop-off and pick-up times would become congested, pathways would be overcrowded, and our currently calm area would be disrupted by constant competition for parking. This would negatively impact the safety and wellbeing of students and residents alike.*

#3 **Strengths:** Your conclusion shows creativity by using repetition for emphasis. Your final sentence creates a sense of urgency and importance.

Weaknesses: Overstatement → Phrases like "unspeakable horrors" and calling the councillor "the saviour" dramatically overstate the situation. This exaggeration undermines your credibility and makes your argument seem less rational.

Exemplar: *You have the opportunity, Councillor Smith, to make a positive difference for our community. Your decision can preserve an educational resource that benefits people of all ages in Sharolland. We ask you to consider the importance of our library and to help protect it for future generations.*

■ Your persuasive letter shows genuine passion for saving the library, which is excellent. However, your arguments would be more effective with specific examples of how the library benefits the community. For instance, in your second paragraph, you could mention specific programs the library runs or how many students use it after school. Also, your tone sometimes becomes too dramatic or accusatory, which might push the councillor away rather than bringing them to your side. Try to maintain a respectful, collaborative tone throughout. Your letter would be stronger if you acknowledged potential benefits of a shopping centre but then explained why the library still provides greater value. Finally, consider adding a call to action that suggests a specific step the councillor could take, such as visiting the library to see its value firsthand or meeting with student representatives to hear their concerns directly.

Score: /50

Section 2:

1 Tree St 2 Bob St Shaylville NSW 2305 Sharolland NSW 230514 April 2025Dear Councillor Smith,

#1 I am writing to you on behalf of the committee of young minds at Sharolland Public School, who know that the Sharolland Community Library must not be closed, not even under the strictest circumstances. ~~What are you going to change our glorious library into? A dusty old shopping centre that no one will use at all.~~ [We are concerned about the proposal to replace our valued library with a shopping centre, which may not serve the same vital community purpose.]

Firstly, children love hanging around the library after school while waiting for their parents to pick them up. Imagine changing ~~the~~ [this] retreat into a shopping centre that parents will not want their children to stay in, for shopping centres have a terrible reputation with teenagers.

Secondly, a library is a learning opportunity for children ~~elderly~~ [, the elderly,] and everyone in between. Children can read about an upcoming test, and the elderly can exercise their minds with puzzles, riddles and learn how to use technology. The library has story time for toddlers and young children to familiarise them with good literature. You name a book, the library has it.

#2 Thirdly, if you put a shopping centre right next to a school, do not expect the traffic ~~will flow~~ [to flow] smoothly. The school drop off will be clogged. The school pickup will be clogged. The pathways will be clogged. A calm, quiet area will ~~have turned~~ [turn] into an ongoing battle for a park. ~~Would you do that to innocent children?~~ [This would negatively impact the daily routine and safety of our school community.]

Finally, it would be horrible for small, local businesses ~~being overshadowed~~ [to be overshadowed] by the ugly, looming, eyesore grey, concrete blob. What if those stores are the

only way the owners get money? They would get stranded when their regular customers would pass without even a glance. They would prefer libraries any day.

#3 You, Councillor Smith, are the hope. You, Councillor Smith, are ~~the saviour~~ [our advocate]. You, Councillor Smith, are the change we all urgently need. You are the only one who can stop ~~the unspeakable horrors~~ [these negative changes] happening to the community. Be the change.

Yours sincerely, Anabelle