

# Section 1

## #1

**Strengths:** Your persuasive opening establishes a respectful tone while immediately communicating urgency and emotional impact. Your rhetorical questions effectively challenge the reader to consider deeper implications.

**Weaknesses:** Emotional appeal without specific community impact → Your opening relies heavily on emotion but lacks concrete examples of how the library currently serves the community beyond its historical presence. This makes your appeal feel more sentimental than practical.

**Exemplar:** *I write with deep concern regarding the proposed demolition of Marigold Public Library, which currently serves over 2,000 weekly visitors and hosts 15 community programs that benefit our town's most vulnerable residents.*

## #2

**Strengths:** Your vivid sensory descriptions create a powerful image of the library's physical presence and emotional significance. You effectively use descriptive language to help the reader visualise what would be lost.

**Weaknesses:** Limited stakeholder perspective → You focus primarily on emotional and historical arguments without addressing the views or needs of different community groups. This narrows your persuasive approach and may limit its effectiveness with practical-minded officials.

**Exemplar:** *The building itself is an architectural treasure: stained-glass windows filtering morning light into the reading room where local students complete homework daily, carved oak columns supporting spaces where job-seekers access free internet, and winding staircases leading to research areas used by everyone from schoolchildren to seniors.*

## #3

**Strengths:** Your conclusion clearly states what you want the recipient to do and uses powerful imagery to reinforce your point. The contrast between "ghost in a skyline" and "beacon of learning" creates a compelling final image.

**Weaknesses:** Vague alternatives → You mention alternatives exist without providing specific, realistic examples of how the library could be preserved while meeting development needs. This weakens your argument by making solutions seem abstract rather than achievable.

**Exemplar:** *Mr Greaves, we propose a compromise: preserve the historic façade and reading room while modernising the east wing to include community meeting spaces and technology centres. Similar hybrid approaches have succeeded in Blackwood and North Beach, preserving heritage while expanding services.*

■ Your persuasive letter shows passion but could benefit from more balanced arguments. While you've created emotional impact, you need to strengthen your case with specific examples of the library's current community value. Try to include who uses the library today and for what purposes. Your letter would be more convincing if you acknowledged the reasons behind the development plans and then countered them with realistic alternatives. Also, consider mentioning successful library preservation efforts in other towns as models. Think about including perspectives from different community members (students, elderly, job-seekers) to show broad impact. Your beautiful descriptive language works well, but adding practical details would give Mr Greaves both emotional and logical reasons to reconsider the demolition.

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**Overall Score: 43/50**

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## Section 2

Anniella Hu 47 Meadowbrook Lane Willow Creek, CA 90210 elenacarterwrites@gmail.com April 14, 2025

To: Mr. Thomas Greaves City Planning Director Willow Creek Municipal Office 218 Oakridge Boulevard Willow Creek, CA 90210

**Subject: Urgent Appeal Against the Demolition of Marigold Public Library**

Dear Mr. Greaves,

#1 With the deepest respect and the heaviest of hearts, I write to you today regarding the imminent demolition of the Marigold Public Library—a decision that has left many of us in Willow Creek reeling with disbelief. I urge you to reconsider this action that threatens to strip our community of one of its most beloved and irreplaceable treasures. How can we justify the destruction of a place that has, for over eight decades, served as the intellectual heartbeat of our town? Will steel and asphalt ever replace the warmth of whispered stories between shelves,

or the quiet dignity of a child holding a book for the first time? Do we really believe that progress must come at the cost of identity?

Since 1936, the Marigold Library has stood with quiet strength on the corner of Ash and 4th—its ivy-covered stone walls weathering both storm and sunshine. #2 The building itself is a poem in architecture: stained-glass windows filtering morning light into rainbows across the reading room, carved oak columns rising like ancient trees, and winding staircases that creak with the weight of a thousand footsteps, each one a memory. Inside, the scent of aged paper and worn leather lingers like a familiar lullaby. It is not just a building—it is a living, breathing sanctuary of thought and imagination.

And yet, all of this beauty is now under threat, to be replaced with a "multi-use development"—a term as sterile and lifeless as the grey glass structures it describes. Imagine, if you will, the sound of a wrecking ball smashing through the quiet of the children's reading nook, scattering decades of laughter, learning, and love into dust. Picture the sorrow etched onto the faces of our elders as they watch a piece of their youth collapse before them, powerless to stop the erasure of their own history. What message does this send to our children? That their stories aren't worth preserving? That heritage must bow before high-rises and coffee chains? That convenience matters more than culture?

Through rhetorical questions, I seek reflection. Through emotive language and painful imagery, I ask you to feel what we feel: grief, fear, and a sense of helplessness. And through alliteration, I emphasize the pattern of neglect—progress pursued without purpose, destruction disguised as development, memory replaced by modernity.

We, the citizens of Willow Creek, are not against progress. We are against forgetting who we are in the name of it. There are alternatives—repurposing, renovating, preserving while innovating. Cities across the nation have found ways to ~~honour~~ [honour] their past while stepping into the future. Why can't we?

#3 Mr. Greaves, the power to protect our legacy lies in your hands. Please, do not let Marigold Public Library become just another ghost in a skyline of soulless towers. Let it remain a beacon of learning, love, and light for generations to come.

Yours sincerely,

Elena Carter **Anniella Hu**