

Section 1

#1

"Consider for a moment the painful image of its destruction: bricks cracking, glass shattering, shelves collapsing in a deafening, dusty funeral for literacy. Imagine the muffled cries of children who once traced their fingers across the spines of well-loved books, only to find the doors forever shut. The echo of silence in place of laughter and learning is not a future we should accept."

Strengths:

- Vivid imagery that creates an emotional connection
- Strong contrast between the library's life and potential destruction

Emotional appeal without evidence → Your imagery effectively appeals to emotions, but you haven't balanced this with practical reasons to keep the library. When you describe the "dusty funeral for literacy" and "muffled cries of children," your language is powerful but needs supporting evidence about why the library matters beyond feelings.

Consider for a moment the painful image of its destruction: bricks cracking, glass shattering, shelves collapsing. This would mean the loss of our community's only free computer centre, where over 200 people use the internet each week, and where many complete their homework because they have no other access to resources.

#2

"I am writing to you with deep concern and heartfelt urgency regarding the proposed demolition of the Riverdale Public Library—a treasured institution that has stood at the heart of our community for generations. I implore you to reconsider this devastating decision, which threatens not just the physical structure of a library, but the very soul of our neighborhood."

Strengths:

- Clear statement of purpose and position
- Passionate tone that shows commitment to the cause

Unclear stakes → Your opening states your concern but doesn't clearly explain what's at risk. You mention the library is "treasured" and part of the "soul of our neighborhood," but don't give

specific examples of what the community would lose if it's demolished. Your reader needs to understand exactly what's at stake.

I am writing with deep concern about the proposed demolition of Riverdale Public Library—an institution that provides essential services to our community. This decision would eliminate our neighbourhood's only free public meeting space, literacy programmes for young readers, and the daily after-school activities that keep over 50 local children safely engaged until their parents return from work.

#3

"Let me paint for you a vivid picture of what we risk losing: As you step through its heavy wooden doors, you're greeted by the scent of aged paper and polished floors. The children's corner bursts with color—plush beanbags, whimsical murals, shelves of fairy tales and picture books that beg to be opened. Upstairs, the reference section stands proud, rows upon rows of encyclopedias, biographies, and local histories bathed in natural light from the high skylight. The librarian greets each patron not with formality, but with the warmth of an old friend. It is a world of quiet magic, one we abandon at our peril."

Strengths:

- Detailed description that helps readers visualize the library
- Appealing to multiple senses (sight, smell, touch)

Missing action plan → Your description creates a beautiful image of the library, but you haven't provided any alternatives to demolition. When you say "one we abandon at our peril," you've identified the problem without offering solutions the council could consider instead of demolition.

The library serves as our community's only public computer lab, offering twelve workstations used daily by job seekers and students. Instead of demolition, I propose we form a community fundraising committee to restore the building's historic facade while modernising its interior, preserving both its charm and function at half the cost of building a new structure.

■ Your persuasive letter shows passion and emotional connection to the library, but needs more concrete examples of how it serves the community today. You've created beautiful imagery but missed opportunities to provide clear solutions. Try focusing on the specific groups who depend on the library—elderly residents who attend weekly reading groups, students who use the computers for homework, or parents who rely on story time for young children. Also, you could strengthen your argument by suggesting alternatives like renovation instead of demolition, or proposing a phased approach that would allow services to continue during updates. Your conclusion asks for action but would be stronger if you requested a specific next step, such as a community meeting to discuss options or a temporary halt to demolition plans while alternatives

are explored. Your rhetorical questions are good but would have more impact if followed by concrete examples.

Score: 44/50

Section 2

George Thomas **123 Willow Lane Riverdale, NY 1234 April 14, 2025

To: The City Council of Riverdale 456 Civic Center [Centre] Plaza Riverdale, NY 1234

Subject: Urgent Appeal Against the Demolition of Riverdale Public Library

Dear Esteemed Members of the City Council,

~~#2 I am writing to you with deep concern and heartfelt urgency regarding the proposed demolition of the Riverdale Public Library—a treasured institution that has stood at the heart of our community for generations. I implore you to reconsider this devastating decision, which threatens not just the physical structure of a library, but the very soul of our neighborhood.~~ [I am writing to you with deep concern and heartfelt urgency regarding the proposed demolition of the Riverdale Public Library—a treasured institution that has stood at the heart of our community for generations. I implore you to reconsider this devastating decision, which threatens not just the physical structure of a library, but the very soul of our neighbourhood.]

Have we so quickly forgotten the quiet sanctuary that libraries offer in an increasingly chaotic world? Can we, in good conscience, allow bulldozers to erase a space where knowledge, comfort, and community have bloomed for decades? And most pressingly—how will we explain to our children why we allowed a cornerstone of their future to be reduced to rubble?

The Riverdale Public Library is not merely a building; it is a living repository of dreams, aspirations, and learning. Its warm, oak-paneled walls have heard the first stuttered words of eager readers, the soft hum of scholarly discussions, and the quiet sighs of those who sought refuge among its shelves. Its tall, arched windows pour sunlight over generations of curious minds, illuminating more than just pages—transforming lives for the greater good.

#1 Consider for a moment the painful image of its destruction: bricks cracking, glass shattering, shelves collapsing in a deafening, dusty funeral for literacy. Imagine the muffled cries of children who once traced their fingers across the spines of well-loved books, only to find the doors forever shut. The echo of silence in place of laughter and learning is not a future we should accept.

Beyond sentiment, the library serves vital practical purposes. It is a lifeline for low-income families who cannot afford internet access or personal books. It is a quiet haven for students who have no safe or supportive space at home. It is a classroom, a ~~counselor's~~ [counsellor's] office, a community hub. Its demolition is not just a matter of urban planning—it is a profound moral failure.

#3 Let me paint for you a vivid picture of what we risk losing: As you step through its heavy wooden doors, you're greeted by the scent of aged paper and polished floors. The children's corner bursts with ~~color~~ [colour] —plush beanbags, whimsical murals, shelves of fairy tales and picture books that beg to be opened. Upstairs, the reference section stands proud, rows upon rows of encyclopedias, biographies, and local histories bathed in natural light from the high skylight. The librarian greets each patron not with formality, but with the warmth of an old friend. It is a world of quiet magic, one we abandon at our peril.

I urge you to employ reason, empathy, and foresight. Use your power not to destroy but to protect. Employ the rhetoric of responsibility, the ethos of stewardship, and the pathos of shared memory. This library is more than a structure—it is a symbol of who we are as a community. To tear it down is to send a message that progress demands sacrifice, but let us be clear: not all sacrifices are noble, and not all progress is just.

Is it not our duty, as citizens and as leaders, to preserve the spaces that nurture minds and uplift spirits? Should we not champion institutions that offer opportunity to all, regardless of background or income?

In closing, I beseech you to stand with us—students, elders, families, and future generations—in preserving the Riverdale Public Library. There are solutions that do not involve demolition: restoration, repurposing, or expansion. Let us work together to write a new chapter for this beloved space, rather than close the book forever.

Yours sincerely,

George Thomas Riverdale Year 6 student