

Section 1:

#1 "Some people think that only madmen will believe in aliens, but it won't hurt to just write a letter for future reference. All you need is a pen, paper, and country leaders to come together. If the country leaders won't agree, then individuals can write a letter instead."

Strengths: Your opening creates a casual tone that engages the reader. You've also provided alternatives for action if your main suggestion isn't possible.

Weaknesses: Unsupported claim → Your argument begins with a claim about "madmen" that might alienate readers who are skeptical. You haven't provided any foundation for why writing letters is actually important. **Perhaps you could write: "While some people remain skeptical about extraterrestrial life, scientists have found evidence suggesting we might not be alone in the universe. Writing a peace letter could be a wise precaution."**

#2 "Imagine the aliens come and they tear up all the schools and houses, and buses. Imagine seeing the hurt on the children's faces when everything they know gets torn away from them. Imagine getting captured and taken away to another planet to get experimented on."

Strengths: Your use of repetition with "imagine" creates a powerful emotional appeal. You've focused on relatable concerns like schools and children.

Weaknesses: One-sided perspective → You've only presented a negative, frightening view of potential alien contact. This limits your argument by not considering other possibilities. **Instead, you could write: "If aliens visited Earth, we don't know their intentions. They might be peaceful explorers or they might pose a threat to our homes, schools and families. A peace letter could help establish friendly communication from the start."**

#3 "Scientists have found evidence of potential biosignatures on a planet 124 light-years away from Earth. A new investigation with NASA's James Webb Space Telescope into K2-18 b, an exoplanet 8.6 times as massive as Earth, has revealed the presence of carbon-bearing molecules, including methane and carbon dioxide. This means we have to prepare for an invasion."

Strengths: You've included specific scientific information which adds credibility to your argument. Your writing shows knowledge of current space exploration.

Weaknesses: Faulty conclusion → You jump from scientific evidence about biosignatures to concluding an invasion is coming without explaining the connection. The scientific facts don't directly support your conclusion. **A more logical connection could be: "Scientists have found evidence of potential biosignatures on K2-18 b, which suggests this planet might support life. While this doesn't prove aliens exist or plan to visit Earth, it reminds us that we should be prepared for the possibility of contact with other beings."**

■ Your persuasive piece shows creativity and passion for the topic of alien communication. However, your argument would be stronger if you built your case more carefully. The jump from scientific discovery to preparing for invasion needs more steps in between. Also, you could make your piece more convincing by acknowledging different perspectives - not everyone believes aliens would be hostile. Try to anticipate what your readers might question and address those concerns. Your emotional appeal with the "imagine" paragraph is strong, but you could balance it with more logical reasoning. Consider explaining why a peace letter would actually work as a solution. Additionally, your conclusion could give more specific guidance on what this peace letter should contain. Remember that persuasive writing works best when it guides readers step by step to your conclusion rather than making big leaps.

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**Overall Score: 40/50**

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Section 2:

Homework Day 10

We Need to Start Writing Our Peace Letter To Aliens Immediately

10-year-old December Days reported, "At school we went on an excursion to the Blue Mountains and we all had a go on the telescope and I saw a slightly round object in the sky. It was flashing green, and it was the time of the year when none of the planets were visible. There was only one thing it could have been: a UFO."

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The whole universe is infinite, so it's possible that it's not only K2-18 b that has a chance of having life. And aliens are more unpredictable than the unruliest toddler. Space is vaster and more infinite than a bottomless well. Be on the lookout.

~~I encourage each and every one of you to write a letter to the aliens starting today, not tomorrow, not next week, but today.~~ [I encourage you to start writing your peace letter to potential alien visitors today – not tomorrow, not next week – because preparation is essential.] The universe is a magical place, so who knows, dinosaurs might still be alive.