

Section 1:

#1 (Paragraph 1) Strengths: ■ Your opening effectively establishes the creek's transformation from pristine to polluted. ■ You create a vivid sensory picture with details about the "unnatural shimmer" and "chemical scent."

Weaknesses: Inconsistent tone → Your writing shifts between formal reporting and poetic description, making the tone uneven. The phrase "looking like it has no energy" feels out of place in a feature article that otherwise uses more precise language like "unnatural shimmer" and "chemical scent."

Exemplar: ***The water, now tinged with an unnatural shimmer, carries a faint chemical scent. Where children once played and wildlife thrived, the creek now flows sluggishly, its vitality visibly diminished.***

#2 (Paragraph 2) Strengths: ■ You effectively incorporate expert opinion with the quote from Dr. John. ■ Your writing conveys the ecological impact clearly by mentioning specific effects (fish decline, bird disappearance).

Weaknesses: Imprecise wording → The phrase "revealed the potential of a significant disease regarding the once pristine, delicacy, river" is confusing and grammatically incorrect. Words like "potential," "significant disease," and "delicacy" are used incorrectly or awkwardly in this context, making your meaning unclear.

Exemplar: ***Recent tests conducted by the Environmental Health Agency have revealed alarming contamination levels in what was once a pristine waterway. The report warns that direct contact with the water may pose serious health risks to both humans and animals.***

#3 (Paragraph 4) Strengths: ■ You present a balanced perspective by including solutions and community action. ■ Your writing effectively communicates urgency through the petition details and upcoming vote.

Weaknesses: Unclear organization → Your paragraph begins with "Still, many experts argue" but doesn't clearly connect to what came before. The support group "Clean Waters" is introduced abruptly without context. The phrase "ruled policies" is vague and doesn't clearly explain what kind of accountability is being proposed.

Exemplar: ***Environmental experts argue that economic prosperity and environmental protection can coexist. Local support group Clean Waters has proposed a multi-phase restoration plan that includes installing natural filtering systems, restoring vegetation along the creek's banks, and holding polluters accountable through stricter regulations.***

■ Your article shows promise with strong descriptive elements and a clear environmental message. However, you need to work on maintaining consistent clarity throughout. Some parts feel rushed, with important details not fully developed. For example, you mention health issues but don't connect them clearly to specific pollutants. Also, the source of the pollution remains unexplored—readers will wonder who is responsible. The structure could be improved by organizing information more logically, perhaps starting with the creek's importance, then explaining the pollution, its effects, and finally the solutions. Your conclusion effectively calls for action, but would be stronger if it tied back to specific examples from earlier in the article. Try breaking up longer sentences for better readability. Additionally, consider adding more direct quotes from affected residents to strengthen the human element of your story.

Score: 42/50

Section 2:

Toxic Beauty: The Battle for Silverwater Creek's Future

Once a clean, glistening stream winding through the heart of Riverton, Silverwater Creek has become a symbol of environmental decline. The water, now tinged with an unnatural shimmer, carries a faint chemical scent. Where children once played and wildlife ~~were beyond~~ [once thrived], the creek now flows slowly ~~looking like it has no energy~~ [with diminished vitality]. Residents are growing increasingly concerned, facing the uncomfortable truth that what was once a source of pride has turned into a potential public health hazard.

#2 Recent tests conducted by the Environmental Health Agency have revealed ~~the potential of a significant disease regarding the once pristine, delicate, river~~ [alarming contamination levels in the once pristine waterway]. The report warns that direct contact with the water may pose risks to both humans and animals. Aquatic life is already suffering. Fish populations have declined dramatically, and local bird species that relied on the creek have begun to disappear. "The ecosystem is in collapse," says Dr. John, an ecologist at the University of Riverton. "The creek can no longer support the life it once did. We are watching a slow unraveling of a natural system that took centuries to build."

The environmental consequences are deeply troubling, but they are not the only concern. Many residents have reported health issues that may be linked to the pollution. Cases of skin irritation, respiratory problems, and even unexplained nausea have been rising in neighborhoods closest to the creek. For families living nearby, the change is more than visible, it's personal. Tara Meeks, a local mother of three, remembers spending summer afternoons swimming in the creek as a child. "It was clear, cool, and alive," she says. "Now, I won't even let my kids near it. It smells like metal, and the water looks strange. It breaks my heart seeing my childhood gone."

#3 ~~Still, many~~ [Many] experts argue that economic health and environmental protection are not mutually exclusive. ~~The support group~~ [Local support group] Clean Waters ~~, now has~~ [has] proposed a multi-phase plan that includes installing natural filtering systems, restoring vegetation along the creek's banks, and holding polluters accountable through ~~ruled policies~~ [stricter regulations]. The plan also calls for increased investment in green ~~structure~~ [infrastructure] that could create new jobs while safeguarding the environment. More than ten thousand residents have signed a petition demanding action, and pressure is growing ahead of the upcoming city council vote.

The situation at Silverwater Creek is a local crisis with far-reaching implications. It speaks to a larger question facing communities across the country: how do we balance growth with stewardship? The creek's decline may seem gradual, but its impacts are immediate and lasting. Wildlife is disappearing, families are growing sick, and a treasured natural space is slipping away.

What happens next depends on the choices made today. Silverwater Creek can be restored, but it will require commitment, ~~communication~~ [collaboration], and pride. Residents must continue to speak out, leaders must be held accountable, and industries must be part of the solution, not just the problem.

#1 The beauty of Silverwater Creek may still glint beneath the surface, but its future hangs in the balance. Let us not wait until it's too late. The time to act is now. For our health, for our environment, and for the generations yet to come, the creek must be saved.