

## Section 1:

#1 "Silverwater Creek used to be a fun and peaceful place. Families would go there to fish, birds sang in the trees, and kids loved playing by the water. But now, the water is dirty and smelly. Rubbish floats on top, and many animals are gone. What happened?"

Strengths: ■ Your opening creates a strong emotional contrast between the past and present state of the creek, immediately engaging readers. ■ The short, direct question at the end effectively hooks the reader and establishes the central problem.

Weaknesses: Sensory detail is limited → The description lacks specific sensory details that would help readers visualise and connect with the creek more deeply. You mention the creek is "dirty and smelly" but could paint a more vivid picture of how drastically it has changed.

Exemplar: ***Silverwater Creek used to be a fun and peaceful place where crystal-clear water flowed between mossy banks. Families would go there to fish, birds sang in the trees, and kids loved splashing in the cool shallows. But now, the water runs murky brown and gives off a rotten egg smell. Plastic bags and empty bottles float on top, and the once-noisy birds and frogs have fallen silent. What happened?***

#2 "Pollution is hurting the animals and the people who enjoy the creek. When rubbish and chemicals go into the water, they make it unsafe for animals to live. Many kids say they used to see frogs and fish, but now they only see rubbish. Samir, a 10-year-old student, said, "We used to go down to the creek after school, but now it's gross. We don't see frogs anymore, just trash." The dirty water is taking away a special place from kids and families."

Strengths: ■ Your inclusion of a quote from a child provides a personal perspective that readers can relate to emotionally. ■ You effectively connect the pollution to its impact on both wildlife and the human community.

Weaknesses: Voice consistency needs attention → The paragraph shifts between general statements and specific examples without smooth transitions. The final sentence feels disconnected from Samir's quote and could be developed further to strengthen the emotional impact.

Exemplar: ***Pollution is hurting both the animals and the people who cherish the creek. When rubbish and chemicals contaminate the water, they create a toxic environment where wildlife struggles to survive. Local children have witnessed this decline firsthand. "We used to go down to the creek after school and count how many frogs we could spot," says Samir, a 10-year-old student from Riverside Primary. "But now it's too gross to even get close. All the frogs have disappeared—there's nothing but rubbish***

***everywhere." With each passing day, this pollution is robbing our community of a precious natural space where memories are made.***

#3 "If you walk by the creek now, you'll see plastic bags, bottles, and old tyres. But if you close your eyes, you might remember what it used to look like. Clean water, fish jumping, dragonflies flying through the air. That's the creek we should have."

Strengths: ■ Your use of imagery creates a powerful contrast between the current reality and what could be restored. ■ The simple, evocative language makes the message accessible and emotionally resonant.

Weaknesses: Structure needs development → The paragraph is brief and underdeveloped compared to its potential impact. It uses fragments rather than complete sentences, which weakens the rhetorical power of this important moment in the article.

Exemplar: ***If you walk by the creek today, your eyes will meet a disappointing sight: plastic bags caught in branches, empty bottles bobbing in the current, and old tyres half-buried in the mud. But if you close your eyes and listen to the stories of long-time residents, a different scene emerges. You might picture the clear, sparkling water that once flowed freely, the silver flash of fish as they leapt above the surface, and the jewel-like dragonflies that darted through the reeds. That vibrant, living creek isn't just a memory—it's the future we must fight to restore.***

■ Your feature article tackles an important environmental issue in a way that's accessible and relevant to your community. The narrative structure works well, starting with the problem, exploring its causes and impacts, addressing opposing viewpoints, and ending with a call to action. Your personal tone creates a connection with readers and makes them care about Silverwater Creek.

To strengthen your writing, consider developing your descriptions with more specific details about how the creek has changed. For example, you could compare the sounds, smells, and sights of the healthy creek to its current state. Also, try to expand on the community initiatives already happening—what specific activities are schools doing? Which local groups are conducting clean-ups? Additionally, your call to action could be more specific about exactly how readers can get involved. Try building more emotional moments into your article by including more quotes from community members who remember the creek in better days. Your conclusion could be more powerful if you painted a detailed picture of what the restored creek might look like in the future.

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**Overall score: 41/50**

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## Section 2:

### Toxic Waters: The Fight to Save Silverwater Creek

#1 Silverwater Creek used to be a fun and peaceful place. Families would go there to fish, birds sang in the trees, and kids loved playing by the water. But now, the water is dirty and smelly. Rubbish floats on top, and many animals are gone. What happened?

People in the community are starting to worry. Pollution is harming the creek, and we need to do something before it's too late.

Silverwater Creek flows through our town. It helps water our plants, and many animals live there, ~~such as~~ [such as] ducks, frogs, and fish. But lately, the creek doesn't look the same. The water is no longer clear. Sometimes it smells bad, and there is rubbish everywhere.

Experts say the creek is being polluted by rubbish from drains, people littering, and waste from nearby factories. Dr. Helen Tran, a scientist, says, "Silverwater Creek is full of chemicals and plastic. If we don't help it now, we may lose it forever."

#2 Pollution is hurting the animals and the people who enjoy the creek. When rubbish and chemicals go into the water, they make it unsafe for animals to live. Many kids say they used to see frogs and fish, but now they only see rubbish. Samir, a 10-year-old student, said, "We used to go down to the creek after school, but now it's gross. We don't see frogs anymore, just ~~trash~~ [rubbish]." The dirty water is taking away a special place from kids and families.

There are many reasons why the creek is getting polluted. A big one is stormwater drains. These drains carry rainwater off the roads but they also carry oil, litter, and even dog ~~poo~~ [poo] into the creek. People also throw rubbish into the water or near it, and sometimes factories let dirty water go into the creek. A report from the local council said that most of the waste in the creek comes from people. That means we can fix it. If we try.

Some people think cleaning the creek will cost too much money. Others believe nature can fix itself. But many experts say we need to help. Dr. Tran says, "It's not just about money. It's about our health, the animals, and our future."

At the same time, many schools and families want to help right now. Teachers are doing lessons about caring for the environment. Some groups are cleaning up the creek on weekends. Even kids are helping. They want to save the creek and bring it back to life.

#3 If you walk by the creek now, you'll see plastic bags, bottles, and old ~~tyres~~ [tyres]. But if you close your eyes, you might remember what it used to look like. Clean water, fish jumping, dragonflies flying through the air. That's the creek we should have.

We can bring back Silverwater Creek. We just need to care and take action. We need rules to stop people and businesses from polluting. We need to remind everyone not to litter. And we need to help clean up the creek.

Silverwater Creek is part of our community. It's not too late to save it. Join a clean-up. Talk to your school. Tell your friends and family. Together, we can help the creek shine again.