

Section 1:

#1 Strengths: ■ Your use of emotional language effectively conveys the devastating impact of pollution on the community. ■ You've created a strong visual contrast between past and present through Adam Smith's perspective.

Weaknesses: Run-on sentences → Your opening paragraph contains several run-on sentences that make it difficult to follow your ideas. For example, "As he stands now, on the bank of this grim wasteland, torrents of nostalgic anguish erupt from the necklace enveloping him, as he utters the words..." combines too many ideas without proper punctuation.

Exemplar: ***As he stands now on the bank of this grim wasteland, torrents of nostalgic anguish overwhelm him. "This is not the river it used to be," he says softly. "This is a blinded monstrosity now. This is death."***

#2 Strengths: ■ Your inclusion of specific medical information adds credibility to your argument. ■ You effectively use statistics to highlight the severity of the water contamination.

Weaknesses: Inconsistent tone → The second paragraph shifts abruptly from narrative to scientific reporting, creating a disconnect in your writing style. The technical language like "cyanotoxins" and "Microcystins" contrasts sharply with the emotional language in surrounding paragraphs.

Exemplar: ***Laboratory tests reveal alarming results: nearly 94% of water samples cause skin rashes on contact, while the remaining samples lead to severe swelling. Children living just 300 metres from the river suffer from these conditions, while even those 2 kilometres away experience itching and swelling.***

#3 Strengths: ■ Your counterargument shows you've considered different viewpoints about river rehabilitation. ■ You effectively use the mother's emotional story to counter economic arguments.

Weaknesses: Unclear structure → Your counterargument paragraph lacks a clear structure. You introduce opposing views but don't fully develop them before moving to your rebuttal. The connection between economic stability, filtering the stream, and property values needs clearer organization.

Exemplar: ***Some people worry that cleaning up the river would cost too much money. They think letting factories continue operating brings steady income. However, this view ignores the serious health problems affecting our children—problems that no amount of money can fix. Additionally, property values in our neighbourhood have dropped by 41% each year due to the pollution.***

■ Your feature article shows great potential with its passionate tone and emotional appeals. You've created vivid imagery of the polluted river and effectively contrasted it with memories of its cleaner past. To improve your piece, consider organizing your paragraphs more carefully so each one focuses on a single main idea. Also, try balancing emotional language with clear, straightforward sentences to help readers follow your argument. Additionally, make sure transitions between paragraphs guide readers smoothly from one point to the next. Your call to action at the end is strong, but you could make it even more powerful by suggesting specific actions readers can take. Overall, your writing shows you care deeply about this environmental issue, which comes through clearly to your readers.

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**Score: 44/50**

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## Section 2:

Silverwater River - A haven of growth, or a barren graveyard filled with skeletons of the dead

#1 53 year old Adam Smith, the founder of Smith Toxicology, pensively carries the photograph of himself as † [a] ~~children~~ [child] wading in these very waters, the waves caressing him with jubilation. As he stands now, on the bank of this grim wasteland, torrents of nostalgic anguish erupt from the ~~necklace~~ [anguish] enveloping him, as he utters the words, "This is not the river it used to be. This is a blinded monstrosity now. This is death" ~~Children~~ [Children] around the area even report strange unseen skin conditions, unknown to dermatological experts, as if nuclear radiation swarms them. 2nd degree skin burns occur in this minor town of Silverwater Heights, all residents urged to leave the area. Withered skeletons of once flourishing species are now fossils eternally imprisoned in the impeding river current. This is a toxic void that ~~obliviates~~ [obliterates] life.

#2 Laboratory analysis conducted by the Bureau of Environmental Services show that a staggering 93.64% of the 500 samples cause skin rash on contact, the rest causing severe swelling. Long exposure to the multiple cyanotoxins that abode in the waters, such as Microcystins, emerging from the algae, promotes tumour growth which increases the risk of cancer. These toxins can also cause gastrointestinal discomfort and food poisoning. Other natural toxins in the waters such as arsenic and lead are extremely detrimental to one's health and can cause acute poisoning leading to symptoms of vomiting and diarrhoea. Dr. Felix Kane proclaims that "Over the course of the past three years, 53% of youth poisoning is caused by extended exposure to contaminated waters, this number insidiously growing higher through time. This number correlates with the pollution levels in Australia, indicating a link between these variables." Children living 300 metres away from this river can experience skin rash and acute poisoning, and children living 2 kilometres away from this river experience itching and severe swelling. Not just our children, but generations to come will face the impact that we created.

The creek's deterioration is etching a laceration through the community's collective heart, contaminating our lives as well as itself. The intoxicating miasma of the metallic mephitic stream of blood running down the river sends intrusive toxins that invisibly infiltrate the air. "In place of our vibrant creek, I see Death itself", 9 year old child, Allan Thomper says, his voice cracking in ~~miserability~~ [misery]. Just 3 years ago, this stream became a battlefield, its waves ~~tantalising~~ [tormenting] the dead bodies instead of caressing them. The vigilant heartbeat of the river is now being artificially mimicked by the tyrannic pulsation of industrialisation. "These are the very waters that I, my parents, and my grandparents had played in, and to steal our ~~descendant's~~ [descendants'] rights to a playground, by corrupting this river in immoral factories that are blinded by profit. That is inhumane.", a concerned parent expresses, whilst in mental agony at the sight of this creek's pollution.

#3 Opponents of rehabilitation of this river may argue that installing filters will threaten to imbalance economic stability and that by letting factories continue their harm, a steady flow of income will come, compared to the potential economic crisis that may happen. I respect this argument as it acknowledges real-world problems such as money and it considers the benefits and negatives of both. However, I believe that we should filter the stream, as the diseases and symptoms that could happen are unknown to the medical world, unsolvable by the mirage of money. Additionally, the pain of these skin conditions outweighs any possible profit that could be gained.

As Emily Brown, a caring mother sobbingly recalls, "After curiously touching the water, my poor four year old daughter experiences rashes throughout the night, itching furiously at the seemingly innocent three red spots that are engraved in her skin. She makes her rash swell, and then cries herself to sleep. What kind of mother could experience this suffering, knowing that there is an easy solution?" Furthermore, by polluting the river, investment properties and property value that is within the neighbourhood has been plummeting at an average of 41% per year. This value is interconnected with the general lack of interest towards this area as the river causes severe symptoms. The economic argument, though based on a strong premise, is outweighed by the consequences of failing to filter Silverwater creek, also flawed by the decrease of property value.

Silverwater Creek can be rejuvenated. We have cleaning technologies. We can revert what harm has been done. But there is one problem: We need your collective help. Your accumulating will. Your combined choice. For if we work together, we can reverse the pollution, before our children grow without the knowledge of the invigorating waves that the creek provides. We need your help.