

## Section 1:

**#1 (Paragraph 1) Strengths:** ■ Your opening paragraph effectively establishes the setting and creates a sense of place. ■ You've successfully introduced the contrast between the river's past beauty and current environmental challenges.

**Weaknesses:** Lacks engaging hook → Your opening would benefit from a more compelling introduction that immediately grabs the reader's attention. The current opening is somewhat generic and doesn't create urgency about the environmental issue. Phrases like "source of beauty and tranquility" are standard descriptions that don't paint a vivid picture of what makes this river special to the community.

**Exemplar:** ***The once-mighty Elderberry River, whose crystal waters have sustained our community for generations, now struggles to breathe beneath a growing threat that few residents have noticed.***

**#2 (Paragraph 2) Strengths:** ■ You clearly identify the specific environmental problem affecting the river. ■ You effectively explain the scientific cause-and-effect relationship of nutrient pollution.

**Weaknesses:** Underdeveloped local connection → The explanation focuses primarily on general information about nutrient pollution without creating a strong emotional connection to the Elderberry community specifically. Phrases like "excess nutrients" and "agricultural lands" don't help readers visualize the local impact or understand why they should care personally about this issue.

**Exemplar:** ***Walking along the Elderberry riverbank today, you'll notice patches of thick, green scum where children once swam freely, a direct result of fertilizers washing down from the Johnson Farm and our neighbourhood gardens after heavy rains.***

**#3 (Paragraph 5) Strengths:** ■ Your conclusion offers a hopeful message about community action. ■ You effectively emphasize the importance of preserving the river for future generations.

**Weaknesses:** Lacks specific call to action → The final paragraph remains vague about exactly what readers can do to help. Phrases like "working together" and "taking proactive steps" don't provide concrete guidance for community members who want to get involved after reading your article.

**Exemplar:** ***Join our community clean-up day this Saturday at Elderberry Park, where volunteers will be planting native buffer plants along the riverbank—even an hour of your time can help restore our river's health for your children to enjoy.***

■ Your feature article presents a solid foundation about an important environmental issue, but needs more vivid sensory details to bring the Elderberry River to life for readers. The piece would benefit greatly from including personal stories or quotes from community members affected by the river's decline. You could improve your writing by adding specific examples of how the pollution has changed everyday life in the community. Also, consider strengthening your article by mentioning particular locations along the river that readers would recognize. The inclusion of a clear timeline showing how the river has changed would help readers understand the urgency of the situation. Your conclusion could be more powerful by offering specific ways for readers to take action rather than general statements about working together.

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**Overall score: 43/50**

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## Section 2:

The Disappearing Waters Of The Elderberry Suburb: The River Is Calling You

#1 The Great Elderberry River, nestled in the heart of our community, has long been a source of beauty and tranquility for residents and visitors alike. However, in recent years, the once pristine waters have been plagued by an environmental issue that threatens the health and sustainability of the ecosystem.

#2 The issue at hand is the presence of excess nutrients in the river, primarily from runoff of ~~fertilizers and pesticides from~~ [fertilisers and pesticides from] nearby agricultural lands and urban areas. These nutrients, such as nitrogen and phosphorus, can lead to harmful algal blooms that choke out native plant life, block sunlight from reaching underwater vegetation, and deplete oxygen levels in the water. This, in turn, can have devastating effects on fish and other aquatic species that rely on a healthy ecosystem to thrive.

In addition to algal blooms, the excess nutrients in the river can also contribute to the growth of invasive species, such as water hyacinth and water lettuce, which can outcompete native plants and disrupt the natural balance of the ecosystem. Furthermore, the contaminated water can pose risks to human health, as it may contain harmful bacteria and toxins that can be ingested by swimmers or consumed by wildlife.

To address this pressing issue, local government agencies, environmental ~~organizations~~ [organisations], and concerned citizens have come together to implement various measures aimed at reducing nutrient pollution in the river. These efforts include promoting sustainable farming practices, implementing stormwater management strategies, and raising awareness about the importance of protecting our waterways.

#3 While the task of restoring the health of the ~~Local River~~ [Great Elderberry River] is a daunting one, it is not insurmountable. By working together and taking proactive steps to reduce nutrient pollution, we can ensure that future generations will be able to enjoy the beauty and wonders of this natural treasure for years to come.