

Section 1:

#1 "Have you ever walked down a street that used to be full of trees, only to find it suddenly bare? The shade gone, the air hotter, the birds silent? That's what's happening to my suburb—Greenhollow. Slowly but surely, we are losing the very thing that makes this place feel alive: our trees."

Strengths: Strong opening with a relatable question that immediately engages the audience. The short, fragmented sentences create a powerful rhythm that emphasizes the sense of loss.

Weakness: Lack of specific local details → While your opening effectively creates an emotional connection, it misses an opportunity to ground the audience in the unique character of Greenhollow. Phrases like "that's what's happening to my suburb" and "the very thing that makes this place feel alive" could be more specific to your community.

Exemplar: ***Have you ever walked down Wattle Avenue that used to be full of towering gum trees, only to find it suddenly bare? The cool shade gone, the air five degrees hotter, the familiar kookaburra calls silent? That's what's happening to our beloved Greenhollow.***

#2 "According to the Greenhollow Urban Canopy Survey, we've lost 12% of our tree cover in just two years. That's not just a number—that's hundreds of trees, gone."

Strengths: Effectively incorporates a specific statistic that adds credibility to your argument. The follow-up sentence translates the percentage into a more tangible impact.

Weakness: Underdeveloped evidence → Your use of the survey provides good support, but the statistic stands alone without connection to its consequences. The phrase "That's not just a number" begins to make this connection but doesn't fully develop it. The impact of "hundreds of trees, gone" could be strengthened by linking to specific effects.

Exemplar: ***According to the Greenhollow Urban Canopy Survey, we've lost 12% of our tree cover in just two years. That's not just a number—that's hundreds of trees gone, which means nearly 30 more days of extreme heat each summer and five times more stormwater flooding our streets.***

#3 "So next time you walk down your street, look up. If there's a tree above you, thank it. And if there isn't—ask why. Let's save the soul of Greenhollow before it's too late."

Strengths: Powerful call to action that engages the listener directly. The imagery of looking up creates a simple but meaningful action everyone can take.

Weakness: Limited actionable steps → Your conclusion creates emotional resonance but offers limited concrete guidance. Phrases like "ask why" and "save the soul of Greenhollow" are

evocative but vague. Although you mention "joining local planting days" earlier, the conclusion would benefit from more specific, immediate actions.

Exemplar: ***So next time you walk down your street, look up. If there's a tree above you, thank it. And if there isn't—join us this Saturday at Ridgeview Park's community planting day. Let's save the green heart of Greenhollow, one tree at a time.***

■ Your piece does a brilliant job creating emotional connection through personal experiences like riding your bike under eucalyptus trees. The passion for your community clearly comes through in your writing. To make your speech even more powerful, try including a few more specific examples of what's replacing the trees in Greenhollow. Which buildings or parking lots have replaced your favourite trees? Also, you could strengthen your argument by adding more local details about the consequences of tree loss. For example, how many degrees hotter has it become in summer? Which streets now flood when it rains? These specific details will help your audience better understand the real impact on their daily lives. Additionally, your call to action could be more specific about exactly when and where community members can help with tree planting or protection efforts. Including dates or locations of upcoming events would give people clear next steps to take.

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Section 2:

Have you ever walked down a street that used to be full of trees, only to find it suddenly bare? The shade gone, the air hotter, the birds silent? That's what's happening to my suburb—Greenhollow. Slowly but surely, we are losing the very thing that makes this place feel alive: our trees.

I've lived in Greenhollow my whole life. When I was little, I used to ride my bike under the tall eucalypts by Ridgeview Park. The leaves would whisper stories above my head, and rainbow lorikeets would dart through the branches like fireworks. Now, many of those trees are gone, cut down for more buildings, roads, and parking lots. What used to feel like a green forest is starting to feel like a grey desert.

This isn't just about missing trees. It's about heat waves that hit harder because there's no shade. It's about flooding that happens because tree roots no longer soak up rain. It's about birds losing their homes and the air we breathe becoming harder to clean.

#2 According to the Greenhollow Urban Canopy Survey, we've lost 12% of our tree cover in just two years. That's not just a number—that's hundreds of trees, gone.

Trees aren't decoration. They are nature's lungs, and when we chop them down, it's like we're choking our suburb one breath at a time.

We need to act now. Not just to plant new trees, but to protect the ones we already have. I'm asking our council to make stronger rules about tree removal and to invest in replanting. But we can help too—by joining local planting days, reporting illegal tree clearing, and even just talking about it.

#3 So next time you walk down your street, look up. If there's a tree above you, thank it. And if there isn't—ask why. Let's save the soul of Greenhollow before it's too late.

Thank you.