

## Section 1:

**#1** "To Birmingham Public Schools association. We are aware, but idle. In a world where plastic litter is flowing freely in our oceans and seas, people continue to use plastic despite knowing the environmental crisis on our way to. One of those people is us, the Birmingham Public Schools Association, who continues to use plastic in their canteens, which so many children use each day."

Strengths:

- Strong opening that immediately identifies the issue and the target audience
- Effectively establishes a connection between the school's actions and the larger environmental problem

Weakness: Incomplete sentence structure → Your sentence "the environmental crisis on our way to" is incomplete and disrupts the flow of your argument. This makes your point less clear and impacts the persuasiveness of your introduction. You've started a strong idea but haven't finished expressing it fully.

Exemplar: ***"In a world where plastic litter is flowing freely in our oceans and seas, people continue to use plastic despite knowing the environmental crisis we are facing."***

**#2** "Did you know, there's an estimated 5.25 trillion pieces of plastic in the ocean, including both macro and microplastics, with 46,000 pieces in every square mile. This equates to a weight of around 269,000 tonnes."

Strengths:

- Includes specific statistics that create a powerful image of the scale of plastic pollution
- Breaks down the numbers in multiple ways to emphasise the magnitude of the problem

Weakness: Punctuation error → You've used a comma after "Did you know" but then continued with a statement rather than a question. This creates confusion about whether you're asking a question or making a statement. The sentence also ends with a full stop when it should have a question mark since it begins as a question.

Exemplar: ***"Did you know that there's an estimated 5.25 trillion pieces of plastic in the ocean, including both macro and microplastics, with 46,000 pieces in every square mile?"***

**#3** "Imagine a world where plastic flows freely in our oceans, our future governors, who are these generations' children, struggling to contain the problem that we ourselves caused. Their

oceans, that we now see as pristine and clear will be a humongous mountain of plastic debris, floating like the stick on the ocean that we see today."

Strengths:

- Creates a powerful visual image that connects present actions to future consequences
- Successfully appeals to the reader's emotions by focusing on the impact on future generations

Weakness: Unclear comparison → The phrase "floating like the stick on the ocean that we see today" doesn't create a clear comparison. It's not obvious what "the stick" refers to, making this image less effective than it could be. This unclear reference weakens your otherwise strong visual description.

Exemplar: ***"Their oceans, that we now see as pristine and clear, will be a humongous mountain of plastic debris, floating like the plastic bottles and bags we already see washing up on our beaches today."***

■ Your piece makes a passionate case against plastic use in school canteens, but could be strengthened with more specific solutions. You mention that non-plastic alternatives can be cheaper, but don't provide concrete examples of what the school could actually use instead. Also, your writing would be more persuasive if you included information about what other schools have done successfully. Your opening paragraph effectively identifies the problem, but you could improve the structure by clearly separating your arguments into different paragraphs with clear topic sentences. The emotional appeal in your second paragraph is powerful, but adding one or two practical steps the school association could take would make your argument more actionable. You could also strengthen your case by explaining how students themselves might help with this transition. Remember to check your sentences carefully to make sure they're complete and clear.

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Score: 38/50

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## Section 2:

[Article-Plastic Free Canteen

To Birmingham Public Schools association. We are aware, but idle. In a world where plastic litter is flowing freely in our oceans and seas, people continue to use plastic despite knowing the environmental crisis ~~on our way to~~ [we are facing]. One of those people is us, the Birmingham Public Schools Association, who continues to use plastic

in their canteens, which so many children use each day. There are plastic bottles, plastic bags, plastic packaging, which all contribute to the 2.7 tons of plastic waste each year in Europe alone. #1 ~~Did you know, there's~~ [Did you know that there's] an estimated 5.25 trillion pieces of plastic in the ocean, including both macro and microplastics, with 46,000 pieces in every square mile~~.~~ [?] This equates to a weight of around 269,000 tonnes. While many might argue that non plastic packaging and bags are much costlier and reduce profits, this is not the case. Research shows that on average, 76 percent of brands, including Macro and Toxicon, are cheaper than plastic today. With all things considered, there are almost no other cases against switching to a non-plastic canteen.

Email- Birmingham Public Schools Association

#3 Imagine a world where plastic flows freely in our oceans, our future governors, who are these generations' children, struggling to contain the problem that we ourselves caused. Their oceans, that we now see as pristine and clear ~~will~~ [will,] be a humongous mountain of plastic debris, floating ~~like the stick on the ocean that we see today~~ [like the plastic waste we already see washing up on our shores today]. Now, back to reality. This is the future that we are heading ~~to~~ [towards]. Imagine your child saying to you 'why didn't you do anything?' What will you answer then? There is no explanation ~~into~~ [for] using plastic, there is no explanation ~~into~~ [for] dumping it into our oceans, there is no explanation ~~into~~ [for] doing what we are doing now. All of us have contributed ~~into~~ [to] this-not one of us ~~have~~ [has] stood up for the overuse of plastic in our canteen. The lunch ladies wrap so much packaging around lunch bags, the bottles in our school are everywhere. We can switch to non plastic, there is no consequence! And yet we still litter plastic, throwing it behind us. And yet we still use plastic in our canteens. And yet the students aren't even educated about where the plastic goes once they fail to put it in the bin. This is not just a mistake, it's a profound moral failure that needs to be fixed ~~immediatly~~ [immediately].]