

## Section 1

**#1 Strengths:** Your opening effectively addresses the mayor directly and clearly states your purpose. You've included a quote from an authority figure to support your argument.

**Weaknesses:** Overuse of emotional language → Your opening paragraph shifts too quickly from informative to highly emotional language, which can make your argument seem less credible. The comparison between the library and shopping complex is presented in a very biased way with phrases like "grey, colorless building" and companies that "try persuade residents to toss their money."

**Exemplar:** *"I am writing to express my concern about the planned demolition of our local library. As Professor Amelia from MIT has noted, 'Libraries give poor people an equal chance to education as to those who are rich.' The proposed shopping complex would not provide the same educational benefits to our community."*

**#2 Strengths:** You provide a personal connection to the issue by sharing how you use the library for studying. You also mention how the library benefits students preparing for exams.

**Weaknesses:** Weak evidence → Your statement "Experiments show that people that do study in libraries usually get higher marks in tests" doesn't provide specific information about these experiments. Phrases like "I desperately need" rely too heavily on emotion rather than solid reasoning.

**Exemplar:** *"As a student preparing for my HSC exams in six months, I spend three hours daily at the library. Recent educational studies have shown that students who study in library environments achieve better academic results, which demonstrates the library's direct value to our community's educational outcomes."*

**#3 Strengths:** You've created a vivid mental image that appeals to emotions. You've also addressed different groups that would be affected by the library's demolition.

**Weaknesses:** Overdramatic imagery → Your use of phrases like "huge, ruthless wrecking ball" and "will be crying for stories" creates an overly emotional picture that may distract from your logical arguments. The paragraph relies too heavily on emotional appeals without balancing them with factual evidence.

**Exemplar:** *"Consider what would be lost if the library were demolished: a quiet space where adults can focus on work, a place where children develop a love of reading, and a valuable resource for students to improve their education. Our library isn't just a*

***building—it's a place that helps shape our community's future and preserves our shared knowledge."***

■ Your persuasive letter shows passion for saving the library, but could be more effective with a better balance of emotional and logical appeals. Your opening introduces the issue well, but your arguments need more specific examples of how the library benefits the community. For instance, you could mention specific programs the library runs or how many people use it each week. Your third paragraph about books going to waste is a good point, but you could make it stronger by suggesting alternatives like donating the books. Also, your fourth paragraph comparing libraries and shopping complexes needs clearer facts to support your claim about employment. Adding more specific details about your personal experiences with the library would make your letter more convincing. Try revising your conclusion to include a clear, respectful request for action from the mayor. Remember that persuasive writing works best when it respects the reader while making strong, well-supported arguments.

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**Score: 41/50**

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## Section 2

312 Tony street

2113 North Ryde 15/4/25

Dear Mayor,

**#1** I am writing to inform you about the old library. It has been educating many poor people who wanted a chance to study. "Libraries give poor people an equal chance to education as to those who are rich" remarks Professor Amelia, a professor teaching at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. ~~What will replace this tower of knowledge? A grey, colorless building where companies try persuade residents to toss their money and buy their products.~~ [What will replace this valuable community resource? A shopping complex where companies try to persuade residents to spend their money on products they may not need.]

Our library, built in 1999 is old but well preserved. Why would you want to knock the library down and replace it with a shopping complex, where greedy business owners earn profit. ~~I personally use the library 3 hours a day.~~ [I personally use the library three hours a day.] **#2** The HSC is in about half a year and I desperately need the library for further studying. Experiments show that people that do study in libraries usually get higher marks in tests. I hope you can abandon this operation.

Furthermore, the books go to waste. They will probably go to landfill, where it takes years to decompose things. Paper is also very scarce at the moment. What's more, when you declared the demolition, the library just got new books. On your campaign, you claimed that you were going to be eco friendly and protect the environment. ~~We urge you preserve the library rather than creating a money-making machine~~ [We urge you to preserve the library rather than creating a money-making machine.]

Some people say that shopping complexes will improve ~~economy~~ [the economy]. This seems true, but is actually not. Shopping complexes just give more job opportunities. This will not help if you do not know how to do the job. Libraries give people knowledge through books, and will naturally generate many smart people. A facility helping people learn is definitely better than a building giving job opportunities. Additionally, history shows that employment rates have been rising significantly since libraries were invented.

~~#3 Imagine a huge, ruthless wrecking ball smashing the library with one blow. What a beautiful library two seconds ago, will then be a pile of broken bricks.~~ [Imagine the destruction of our beautiful library, reduced to rubble in moments.] Imagine the adults, losing their best place to concentrate on their jobs. Think of the babies, who will be crying for stories. The students will also be complaining about the destroyed ~~buildings~~ [building]. Our library is not just an old block. It is a place to change our futures. It is a place where our minds grow. It is a place where generations of knowledge come from.

In conclusion, the library that you are knocking down is very precious. The books will probably go to waste and people are most likely going to have a hard time studying. ~~Will we keep this pride of ours, or change it into a meaningless shopping complex.~~ [Will we keep this pride of ours, or change it into a meaningless shopping complex?]

Sincerely,

A desperate student