

Section 1:

#1

"This library is not just a building—it is a bridge to knowledge, a haven for connection, and a springboard for opportunity. For children, it offers a safe, enriching environment where they can explore new ideas, dive into stories, and collaborate with peers. For elderly residents, it is a tranquil retreat—a space for companionship, curiosity, and calm."

Strengths: Your use of metaphors effectively conveys the library's importance beyond its physical structure. Your writing shows strong organisation by breaking down benefits for different community groups.

Weaknesses: Generalised claims → You make broad statements about benefits without providing specific local examples that would make your argument more compelling and relevant to your specific library. Phrases like "a bridge to knowledge" and "a springboard for opportunity" are effective metaphors but lack concrete details from your community.

Exemplar: *"This library is not just a building—it is where my daughter attended her first story time, where Mr. Thompson found employment resources after losing his job, and where our community gathered after last year's flood to support each other."*

#2

"Picture this: a young girl dashes into the library, her backpack bouncing, heart full of anticipation. Her favorite book—a portal to another world—waits for her on the shelf. The golden afternoon light filters through the high windows; the hush of the library wraps around her like a warm blanket. Now imagine her returning two weeks later. The walls are gone. The scent of books has vanished. Her reading corner is rubble. Her card—once a key to wonder—now unlocks nothing."

Strengths: Your narrative approach creates emotional impact through vivid imagery. You effectively contrast the before and after scenarios to highlight what would be lost.

Weaknesses: Emotional manipulation → The scenario presents an extreme emotional contrast without addressing practical concerns like service continuity during transition. Phrases like "Her reading corner is rubble" and "Her card—once a key to wonder—now unlocks nothing" appeal too heavily to emotion without balancing with reasoning.

Exemplar: *"Picture this: a young girl visits our library weekly, finding comfort in its familiar shelves and community activities. If the demolition proceeds, what alternative spaces will our council provide to ensure children like her don't lose access to books and learning resources during the transition and beyond?"*

#3

"Without our library, we lose our past. Without our library, we compromise our present. Without our library, we mortgage our future. This library has educated our minds, nourished our souls, and fortified our community bonds for generations. A new building might be modern, but it will never echo with the stories of generations."

Strengths: Your repetition creates a powerful rhythm that emphasises the library's importance across time. Your conclusion effectively ties together past, present and future impacts.

Weaknesses: Unclear alternatives → You present the situation as binary (keep or lose the library completely) without exploring possible compromises. Phrases like "without our library, we mortgage our future" suggest total loss without acknowledging potential solutions like renovation or relocation of services.

Exemplar: *"While preserving our historic library should be our first choice, if structural issues make this impossible, we should ensure any new facility maintains the community space, preserves historical elements, and continues offering the same accessibility to all residents."*

■ Your persuasive letter shows passion and emotional connection to the library, which is a strength. However, you could improve your argument by including more specific local examples. Try mentioning actual community members who benefit from the library or specific programs it offers. Also, consider acknowledging the council's perspective on why they want to demolish the building. This shows you understand all sides of the issue. You could strengthen your case by suggesting practical solutions like partial preservation or incorporating historical elements into a new structure. Try to balance emotional appeals with practical reasoning. Additionally, consider addressing what happens during construction - how will library services continue? Your conclusion could be stronger by clearly stating what action you want Councillor Bob to take. Is it a vote against demolition? Funding for renovation? Be specific in your request.

Score: 38/50

Section 2:

Dear Councillor Bob,

I am writing to urge you—respectfully yet passionately—to reconsider the decision to demolish the historic town square library. This building is not merely a structure of bricks and timber; it is a sanctuary of learning, a hub of community, and a cornerstone of our shared identity. Why would we remove a place where so many find comfort? How can we call it progress if it silences a space where voices grow? And most of all, who will support those who depend on the library once it is gone?

#1 This library is not just a building—it is a bridge to knowledge, a haven for connection, and a springboard for opportunity. For children, it offers a safe, enriching environment where they can explore new ideas, dive into stories, and collaborate with peers. For elderly residents, it is a tranquil retreat—a space for companionship, curiosity, and calm. For low-income families, it provides access to essential tools: internet, technology, job resources, and educational materials. According to the American Library Association, over 54% of libraries serve as the only free source of internet access in their communities. Without this space, countless individuals—students completing homework, jobseekers building their futures, immigrants learning English—would be left without vital support.

What will become of our community's intellectual heart if this demolition proceeds? It will be replaced by a commercial shell, a place of transactions instead of transformations. A shopping center [centre] may offer temporary convenience, but the library offers lasting wisdom. One may entertain for an hour; the other enriches for a lifetime.

#2 Picture this: a young girl dashes into the library, her backpack bouncing, heart full of anticipation. Her favorite book—a portal to another world—waits for her on the shelf. The golden afternoon light filters through the high windows; the hush of the library wraps around her like a warm blanket. Now imagine her returning two weeks later. The walls are gone. The scent of books has vanished. Her reading corner is rubble. Her card—once a key to wonder—now unlocks nothing.

Some argue that tearing down the library is necessary to make room for economic development. But must progress come at the cost of our heritage? Could we not, instead, invest in its restoration—repair the roof, repaint the walls, update the tech infrastructure? Urban historian Dr. Carla Hayden reminds us that "when we lose a library, we lose a public good—one that cannot easily be replaced by profit-driven spaces." Progress should not erase memory; it should build upon it.

#3 Without our library, we lose our past. Without our library, we compromise our present. Without our library, we mortgage our future. This library has educated our minds, nourished our souls, and fortified our community bonds for generations. A new building might be modern, but it will never echo with the stories of generations. It will never carry the laughter of story hour, the silence of study, the thrill of discovery.

Please, Councillor Bob—don't let bulldozers] flatten a legacy. Don't trade community for commerce. Don't let dust settle where dreams once soared. Choose preservation. Choose people. Choose the library.

Sincerely, Alioth