

## Section 1

#1 "Imagine this. It's the year 2050. Sydney's iconic beaches have vanished beneath rising seas. Summers are unbearable, with temperatures soaring beyond safe levels. Bushfires sweep across the country with devastating regularity."

Strengths: Your opening creates a powerful visual image that immediately grabs attention. You effectively use short, impactful sentences that build tension.

Weakness: Emotional balance → Your opening relies heavily on fear without offering hope until much later. This might overwhelm your audience rather than motivate them. You mention devastating scenarios but don't balance this with any positive vision until several paragraphs later.

***Imagine this. It's the year 2050. Sydney's iconic beaches are at risk from rising seas. Our summers have become increasingly difficult, with temperatures climbing to concerning levels. Bushfires threaten our beautiful country more frequently than ever before. But there is still time to create a different future if we act now.***

#2 "Some may wonder whether these actions truly matter. The answer is yes. Individual choices, when multiplied across communities and countries, create powerful momentum. Every great movement began with people who refused to stay silent, who recognised the urgency of the moment and chose to act."

Strengths: You effectively address counterarguments about individual impact. Your writing uses powerful, confident language that inspires action.

Weakness: Concrete examples → Your paragraph makes a general claim about movements without providing specific examples. This misses an opportunity to connect with your audience through familiar success stories.

***Some may wonder whether these actions truly matter. The answer is yes. Individual choices, like when our school reduced plastic waste by 30% last term, show what's possible when we work together. Like the clean-up movement that started with just a handful of volunteers at Bondi Beach and now involves thousands across Australia, every great change begins with people who recognised the urgency and chose to act.***

#3 "What can we do? Start by making conscious choices. Turn off appliances when not in use. Choose reusable items instead of single-use plastics. Walk, cycle, or use public transport when possible."

Strengths: You provide clear, actionable steps that are accessible to everyone. Your suggestions are practical and easy to implement.

Weakness: Personal connection → Your suggestions feel like a general list rather than personally relevant actions for your specific audience. There's no connection to how these actions might be particularly meaningful in your school or local community context.

***What can we do right here at our school? Start by making conscious choices that match our community values. Turn off classroom lights during lunch breaks—this alone could save enough energy to power our computer lab for a week. Replace single-use plastic water bottles with refillable ones, just as Year 6 did with their successful bottle station project. Walk, cycle or carpool to school when possible, creating safer and less congested streets around our neighbourhood.***

■ Your persuasive speech shows passion and urgency about climate change, which is excellent. However, you could make your message more effective by building stronger connections with your audience throughout. Consider mentioning local climate impacts that your classmates have noticed, like changes to nearby parks or beaches. Also, you could strengthen your argument by showing how other schools have successfully implemented climate actions. Your call to action would be more powerful if you focused on specific school-based initiatives rather than general suggestions. Additionally, your conclusion could be more memorable if you included a personal story about why you care about this issue. Try balancing the serious warnings with more inspiring examples of positive change. Remember to use more "we" and "our" language to create a sense of community throughout your speech

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Score: 42/50

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## Section 2

Good morning everyone,

#1 Imagine this. It's the year 2050. Sydney's iconic beaches have vanished beneath rising seas. Summers are unbearable, with temperatures soaring beyond safe levels. Bushfires sweep across the country with devastating regularity. This isn't the plot of a dystopian novel. It's the future we are hurtling toward unless we change course now.

Climate change is not a distant problem. It is an immediate crisis. The science is irrefutable, the impacts are already unfolding, and the window for meaningful action is rapidly closing. But here is the truth: we are not powerless. Each of us can play a part in rewriting the story.

Let's begin with the facts. According to NASA, global temperatures have risen by approximately 1.1 degrees Celsius since the late 1800s. This seemingly small increase has triggered melting ice caps, rising sea levels, and more frequent and severe natural disasters. In Australia, we are witnessing longer droughts, intensified floods, and unprecedented bushfires. The climate emergency is not just affecting ecosystems. It is affecting our homes, our health, and our future.

Why is this happening? The answer lies in our dependence on fossil fuels. Burning coal, oil, and gas releases greenhouse gases that trap heat in the atmosphere. These emissions are the primary driver of global warming. And yet, despite decades of warnings, the world continues to emit carbon at unsustainable levels. Why? Because large-scale change is difficult, and often resisted.

But that does not mean change is impossible. If we continue waiting for governments and corporations to solve this problem alone, we will fall short. That is why we students, teachers, and communities must take initiative in our daily lives.

#3 What can we do? Start by making conscious choices. Turn off appliances when not in use. Choose reusable items instead of single-use plastics. Walk, cycle, or use public transport when possible. Consider reducing meat consumption ~~even~~ [— even] one meat-free day per week can make a difference. Get involved in sustainability efforts at school or help create new ones. Teachers can support these changes by embedding climate awareness into lessons and championing eco-friendly practices in the classroom.

#2 Some may wonder whether these actions truly matter. The answer is yes. Individual choices, when multiplied across communities and countries, create powerful momentum. Every great movement began with people who refused to stay silent, who recognised] the urgency of the moment and chose to act.

In conclusion, climate change is the defining challenge of our time. But it is also an opportunity to be bold, to be innovative, and to be united in pursuit of a better world. The future is not fixed. It will be shaped by the decisions we make today.

So I leave you with this. What legacy do you want to leave behind? What will you do today to protect tomorrow?]