

# Section 1

## #1

**Strengths:** Your persuasive opening establishes a personal connection through vivid sensory descriptions of the Australian coastline. Your contrast between past beauty and present deterioration creates emotional impact.

**Weakness:** Emotional Appeal Imbalance → Your opening relies heavily on personal experience but doesn't establish why your audience should care beyond your individual perspective. The connection between your personal observations and the broader issue isn't fully developed.

**Exemplar:** *"The coastline I cherished as a child is the same one your children might never know - these changes aren't just my loss, but our collective future at stake."*

## #2

**Strengths:** Your use of sensory language creates a powerful vision of climate consequences. The direct questions effectively challenge readers to consider their responsibility.

**Weakness:** Missing Call-to-Action Framework → While you paint a vivid picture of the problem, you don't provide specific, actionable steps to address it. Your audience might feel overwhelmed without clear direction.

**Exemplar:** *"By reducing household electricity use by turning off unused lights and appliances, each of us can take a small but meaningful step toward preventing this frightening future."*

## #3

**Strengths:** Your conclusion effectively reinforces the urgency of the issue. You end with a hopeful tone that empowers the audience.

**Weakness:** Vague Directives → The actions you suggest in your final paragraph are too general and don't give your audience concrete, achievable tasks. Without specific examples, your call to action loses power.

**Exemplar:** *"Tomorrow morning, challenge yourself to use public transport instead of driving, and speak to one person about why climate action matters to you personally."*

■ Your persuasive speech shows passion and creates strong emotional images, but needs more specific examples that your audience can relate to. You've made a good start by sharing your personal connection to the coastline, but try adding examples that might connect with different people in your audience too. Also, when you ask people to take action, give them very clear steps they can follow tomorrow. For example, instead of just saying "reduce your carbon footprint," you could say "walk to school instead of getting a lift." Your speech would be stronger if you included some simple facts about how climate change affects everyday life in Australia specifically. Try adding some comparison examples like "Our summers are now X degrees hotter than when your parents were children." Your writing uses beautiful descriptive language, but sometimes simpler words might help younger listeners understand better.

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**Score: 43/50**

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## Section 2

### Our Shared Breath: A Plea for Climate Action

Friends, colleagues, fellow inhabitants of this vibrant planet, I stand before you today not as an expert, not as a politician, but as someone deeply connected to the very air we breathe and the ground beneath our feet. My childhood summers were spent exploring the rugged coastline south of Sydney, the salty air thick with the scent of eucalyptus and the rhythmic crash of waves against ancient cliffs. I remember the vibrant coral reefs teeming with life, the playful seals basking on sun-drenched rocks, the sheer, untamed beauty of a world seemingly untouched. #1 But in recent years, a subtle yet unsettling shift has occurred. The vibrant colours of the reefs are fading, bleached and ghostly. The fierce storms are more frequent, more intense, eroding the very coastline I once knew so intimately. This isn't just an abstract scientific concept; it's a personal loss, a tangible erosion of the world I hold dear.

Imagine, if you will, a world where the air hangs heavy and thick, choked with pollutants, where the sun beats down with relentless fury, baking the earth until it cracks and withers. Picture parched landscapes stretching as far as the eye can see, the once fertile soil now barren and lifeless. Hear the desperate cries of animals struggling to survive in a habitat rapidly disappearing, the mournful silence where birdsong once filled the dawn. Feel the oppressive heat clinging to your skin, the constant threat of rising waters lapping at your doorstep. #2 This isn't a scene from a dystopian novel; this is the potential future we are hurtling towards if we fail to act. Are we truly willing to condemn future generations to such a reality?

Now, I know some voices argue that climate change is a natural cycle, that human impact is minimal, or that the economic costs of addressing it are too great. They might point to historical

climate fluctuations or suggest that technological innovation will magically solve the problem without requiring significant changes to our lifestyles. While acknowledging the complexity of the Earth's systems and the importance of economic considerations, can we afford to gamble with the only home we have? Can we, in good conscience, ignore the overwhelming scientific consensus, the tangible evidence of melting glaciers, rising sea levels, and increasingly extreme weather events? To delay action is not prudence; it is negligence.

The truth is, addressing climate change is not just an environmental imperative; it is an economic opportunity, a chance to innovate and create a more sustainable and equitable future. Investing in renewable energy sources will create new jobs and industries. Developing sustainable agricultural practices will ensure food security for generations to come. Embracing energy efficiency will reduce costs and improve our quality of life. This is not a burden; it is an investment in our collective well-being.

We stand at a critical juncture. The science is clear, the evidence is undeniable, and the urgency is palpable. Let us not be the generation that stood by and watched as our planet teetered on the brink. Let us instead be the generation that rose to the challenge, that embraced innovation and collaboration, that chose hope over apathy. Let the memory of vibrant coral reefs and the scent of eucalyptus on a clean sea breeze not become a nostalgic whisper of the past, but a living reality for our children and their children.

Therefore, I urge you, each and every one of you, to take action today. #3 Reduce your carbon footprint. Advocate for sustainable policies. Support businesses committed to environmental responsibility. Educate yourselves and others. Speak up for our planet. Let our collective voice be a resounding call for change, a powerful wave that washes over indifference and propels us towards a sustainable future. Let us work together, with courage and conviction, to protect this precious Earth, our shared home, for generations to come. Thank you.