

Section 1

#1 (Paragraph 1) Strengths: Your vivid imagery of heat "stinging your skin" and the Earth "sending us a warning" creates an immediate emotional connection. Your personal anecdote about your brother asking about snow adds authenticity.

Weaknesses: Vague call to action → You mention we need to "notice" and "listen" to the climate crisis, but you don't specify what actions readers should take. The ending of this section feels incomplete without specific guidance on how to respond to this "borrowed time" situation.

Exemplar: ***Instead of just saying "We have to notice. We have to listen," you could write: "We have to notice by looking at our changing seasons, and we must listen by supporting policies that limit carbon emissions in our communities."***

#2 (Paragraph 2) Strengths: Your use of sensory language like "breathe in smoke" and visual imagery of "ice caps melting like forgotten candles" creates powerful mental pictures. You effectively contrast normal life continuing alongside environmental emergencies.

Weaknesses: Emotional overwhelm → The paragraph focuses heavily on negative consequences without offering hope or solutions, which might make readers feel helpless rather than empowered. The string of problems without actionable steps can lead to readers disconnecting from your message.

Exemplar: ***Rather than ending with "How many floods, fires, and extinctions do we need before we finally understand that later is no longer an option?" you could write: "Each flood, fire, and extinction is a call for us to act now—by reducing our waste, choosing renewable energy, and demanding better from our leaders."***

#3 (Paragraph 4) Strengths: Your story about Toma planting a mangrove tree provides a concrete, memorable example. You effectively move from a specific example to broader implications with "imagine what we could do."

Weaknesses: Limited perspective → The example focuses on individual action without acknowledging systemic challenges. While the tree story is inspiring, it doesn't address how individual actions connect to larger community or policy changes needed to address climate change effectively.

Exemplar: ***Instead of only saying "One boy. One tree. One act of belief," you could expand with: "One boy. One tree. One act of belief that, when joined with community efforts to restore shorelines and government policies to protect mangrove forests, creates lasting change."***

■ Your persuasive speech shows passion and creates vivid imagery that helps readers feel the urgency of climate change. However, you could make your argument stronger by including more specific examples of actions people can take. In paragraph 2, you describe many problems but don't balance them with solutions, which might make readers feel overwhelmed. Try adding practical suggestions after describing each challenge. Also, your call to action in paragraph 5 mentions "recycle more, waste less," but these could be more detailed. For example, explain how reducing single-use plastics at school can make a difference. Your story about Toma is powerful, but you could connect individual actions to community efforts. Remember that persuasive writing works best when readers not only understand the problem but also feel empowered to help solve it. Adding a few specific, achievable actions throughout would strengthen your message and leave readers ready to take steps forward.

Score: 44/50

Section 2

Have you ever walked outside on a summer day and felt the heat sting your skin, not in a soft, gentle way, but as if the air itself was angry? That's not just the sun shining. That is the Earth sending us a warning. The kind of warning we can't keep ignoring. We are not simply running out of time. We are already living on borrowed time. It feels like we're standing on the edge of a cliff, and the ground beneath us is slowly crumbling away. And yet, most of us just keep walking forward, pretending not to notice the danger. But we have to notice. We have to listen. Because the climate crisis is no longer a problem waiting patiently in the future. It is a disaster we are living through right now. It's in the news, yes, but more importantly, it's in our lives. My younger brother asked me once, "Will there still be snow when I grow up?" And I didn't know how to answer him. That broke me. That's when I knew this issue isn't about statistics or debates. It's about people we love and futures we're trying to protect.

#1 Look around. Just pause and pay attention to the world. Every year, we breathe in smoke from forests that should never have burned. The seasons blur together. Spring feels like summer. Summer feels like something else entirely. The sky turns grey with pollution, and the oceans rise, angrier and warmer with each passing year. The Earth doesn't whisper anymore. It screams. Ice caps melt like forgotten candles in an empty room. Animals that once danced through wild fields are now fading into silence. Whole islands are sinking while drought cracks the ground in others. It's heartbreaking and terrifying, and yet somehow, life just goes on around it as if we've learned to live beside the emergency without really facing it. But how much more has to happen before we act? How many floods, fires, and extinctions do we need before we finally understand that later is no longer an option?

Of course, not everyone sees it this way. Some people still argue that climate change is too big for us to fix, that it's the job of scientists or governments, not regular people. Others say it's a natural cycle, that it's happened before and will balance out eventually. But that's not the full truth. The science is clear, and the signs are everywhere. Waiting for others to save us is like seeing a fire at your doorstep and refusing to pick up a bucket because someone else should do it. The truth is, we all have a role. We are not too young, too small, or too late. We are exactly who the planet needs right now.

#3 And there is hope. I want to share a story that stayed with me. Last year, on a small island already struggling with rising sea levels, a boy named Toma planted a single mangrove tree. His grandfather told him, "This tree is your shield." That tree, just one, helped protect the shoreline during a storm months later. One boy. One tree. One act of belief. If one child can protect his home using nothing but his hands and his heart, imagine what we could do if we all cared that much. Imagine if every school planted trees, if every voice demanded change, if every choice we made was rooted in care.

So now, I ask you, not as a speaker to a crowd, but as one person to another. Will you act, or will you wait? Because climate change isn't a faraway problem. It is the fire at our doorstep, the storm outside our windows, the silent scream in the air we breathe. But we can fight it. We can recycle more, waste less, walk more, speak up louder, and treat this Earth not as a resource, but as our shared home. And homes, real homes, are not meant to be destroyed. They are meant to be protected.

Let's be the generation that listened. That cared. That changed something. Not tomorrow. Not when it's too late. But now. Together.