

Section 1:

#1

"A few years ago, I had the incredible chance to snorkel in the Great Barrier Reef. It was like drifting through a living painting---coral in dazzling purples and golds, schools of fish darting like living brushstrokes through crystal-clear water. I remember coming up for air, speechless, thinking, *This is the most beautiful thing I've ever seen.*"

Strengths:

- Strong personal connection that draws the audience in
- Vivid descriptive language that helps listeners visualise the reef

Imagery weakness → Your opening uses beautiful imagery but could be even more immersive with sensory details beyond just visual elements. The audience would feel more connected if you included how the reef sounded, felt, or even smelled during your experience.

I had the incredible chance to snorkel in the Great Barrier Reef. It was like drifting through a living painting—coral in dazzling purples and golds, schools of fish darting like living brushstrokes through crystal-clear water. The gentle current pushed against my skin as the distant clicking sounds of marine life surrounded me. I remember coming up for air, speechless, thinking, "This is the most beautiful thing I've ever seen."

#2

"We know the cause. Burning fossil fuels. Cutting down forests. Polluting the air we breathe. The more carbon we release, the warmer the planet becomes---and oceans absorb that heat. Coral reefs are like canaries in the coal mine. When they're in danger, so are we."

Strengths:

- Effective use of short sentences for emphasis
- Strong metaphor with the canary in the coal mine

Connection weakness → Your explanation of causes is clear but lacks a direct link to your audience's daily lives. Without showing how listeners contribute to these problems, they might feel the issue is too distant or caused only by large corporations.

We know the cause. The petrol we use in our cars. The electricity powering our homes. The plastic packaging we throw away. Every time we make these choices, carbon enters our atmosphere, warming our planet—and our oceans absorb that heat. Coral reefs are like canaries in the coal mine—their suffering warns us of our own danger ahead.

#3

"My call to action is this: start where you are. Talk about climate change. Vote with the planet in mind. Support organisations working to protect our oceans. Reduce your carbon footprint in whatever ways you can. And never believe that your actions don't matter---because they do."

Strengths:

- Clear, actionable steps listeners can take
- Empowering message that individual actions matter

Specificity weakness → Your call to action offers general suggestions rather than specific, memorable actions. Without concrete examples, listeners might leave inspired but unsure exactly what to do tomorrow.

My call to action is this: start where you are today. Talk about climate change with your family at dinner tonight. Vote for candidates who prioritise environmental protection. Support organisations like the Great Barrier Reef Foundation with even \$5 a month. Switch off lights when leaving rooms and walk to school or shops when possible. And never believe that your actions don't matter—because each small choice creates the wave of change our reef needs.

■ Your persuasive speech has a powerful emotional core that will connect with listeners, especially through your personal experience. However, you could strengthen your argument by adding more specific examples of climate change impacts beyond coral bleaching. Try including a short story about how a coastal community has been affected, which would help listeners see the human cost. Also, your speech would be more convincing if you addressed a common objection more directly—perhaps by acknowledging the economic concerns of climate action, then explaining how green solutions create jobs. Your conclusion feels a bit abrupt; consider circling back to your opening personal story to create a more memorable ending. You might end with how you hope future generations will also experience the reef's beauty. Adding these elements would make your already moving speech even more compelling and help your audience understand exactly how they can help save this natural wonder.

Overall Score: 41/50

Section 2:

A World Worth Fighting For

Good evening, everyone,

A few years ago, I had the incredible chance to snorkel in the Great Barrier Reef. It was like drifting through a living painting---coral in dazzling purples and golds, schools of fish darting like living brushstrokes through crystal-clear water. I remember coming up for air, speechless, thinking, *This is the most beautiful thing I've ever seen*. But beauty can be fragile. And now, so much of that reef---that wonder---is dying. #1

What's happening to the Great Barrier Reef is not just a tragedy---it's a warning. The reef, once vibrant and alive, is bleaching. That means the corals are stressed, expelling the algae they rely on to live, turning ghostly white. Heatwaves and warming seas are turning this underwater paradise into a graveyard. It's one of the clearest, most heart-wrenching signs of climate change on Earth.

Imagine diving into water once full of colour and life... only to find silence, stillness, and endless white. The ocean's rainforests are fading before our eyes.

But this isn't just about corals or fish. The reef supports thousands of species, protects coastlines, and provides livelihoods for communities. Its death would be felt by nature and humans alike.

We know the cause. Burning fossil fuels. Cutting down forests. Polluting the air we breathe. The more carbon we release, the warmer the planet becomes---and oceans absorb that heat. Coral reefs are like canaries in the coal mine. When they're in danger, so are we. #2

Some might argue climate change is a natural cycle---that Earth has always warmed and cooled. That's partially true. But never at this speed. Never because of human hands. We are not just passengers on this planet---we're drivers. And we're speeding toward a cliff.

But here is the thing: if we are the problem, we can be the solution. That's not just hopeful---it's powerful. We already have the tools: renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, electric vehicles, and the knowledge to reduce emissions and waste.

Repetition drives the message home: We can protect. We can restore. We can change.

Simple rhetorical questions challenge us: If we won't fight for something as magnificent as the Great Barrier Reef, then what will we fight for? And if not now, when?

My call to action is this: start where you are. Talk about climate change. Vote with the planet in mind. Support organisations working to protect our oceans. Reduce your carbon footprint in whatever ways you can. And never believe that your actions don't matter---because they do. #3

Let the reef be more than a memory. Let it be a reason. A reason to care. A reason to act. A reason to hope.

The Great Barrier Reef is not just an Australian treasure---it's a global one. A living, breathing miracle. And right now, that miracle is counting on us.