

Section 1:

#1 "The faded paint clings to old structures like the last breath of something that used to be wonderful. The ground is hard and cracked, making each fall feel more painful than it should. The equipment creaks and wobbles, like it's sighing under the weight of time."

Strengths: Your use of vivid imagery helps readers visualize the playground's poor condition. Your metaphors create a strong emotional impact about the deteriorating equipment.

Wordiness → Your description, while vivid, uses too many figurative expressions in succession. This makes your point less direct and potentially dilutes the urgent safety concerns you're raising. Phrases like "like the last breath of something" and "sighing under the weight of time" could be balanced with more concrete statements about specific safety issues.

Exemplar: ***The faded paint peels from rusty structures, creating both an eyesore and safety hazard. The hard, cracked ground offers no protection when children fall, while the unstable equipment poses a genuine risk of injury to students of all ages.***

#2 "Studies have shown that play is just as important for learning as what happens inside the classroom. It helps with mental health, focus, and resilience. And right now, we are missing out on all of that."

Strengths: You connect playground quality to educational benefits, which strengthens your argument. You succinctly explain why play matters beyond just having fun.

Underdeveloped evidence → Your reference to "studies" lacks specific examples that would make your argument more convincing. You've introduced an important point about the educational value of play but haven't fully developed it with concrete details that would persuade an administrator to take action.

Exemplar: ***Research from Australian education experts confirms that quality playtime improves classroom performance. When children have safe, engaging outdoor spaces, they return to learning with better concentration and problem-solving skills. Our current playground prevents us from gaining these important benefits.***

#3 "We are not asking for something extravagant. Just a safe, exciting place where we can be kids. Where we can run, climb, laugh, and feel proud of the space we share."

Strengths: Your modest, reasonable request makes your appeal more persuasive. Your writing shows emotional maturity by focusing on basic needs rather than unrealistic demands.

Weak call to action → While you've stated what you want, you haven't clearly outlined specific next steps or a timeline for action. The request remains somewhat vague without mentioning

particular improvements or priorities that would help Mr. McSweeney understand exactly what changes you're seeking.

Exemplar: ***We aren't requesting an elaborate playground redesign, just essential safety upgrades like impact-absorbing ground surfaces and sturdy equipment that meets Australian safety standards. We respectfully ask that improvements begin before the summer term, prioritising the most hazardous areas first.***

■ Your persuasive letter shows genuine concern and passion for improving your school playground. The emotional appeal is strong, especially when describing the current state of the playground. However, your argument would be more compelling with specific examples of the problems. For instance, mention exactly which equipment is dangerous and how many students have been hurt or avoid using it. Also, you could strengthen your case by suggesting realistic improvements with rough cost estimates to show you've thought carefully about solutions. Your letter would benefit from a stronger conclusion that restates your main points and includes a clear, direct request with a suggested timeframe. Additionally, consider adding a paragraph about how students would help maintain the new playground, showing your commitment to the project. The letter needs more concrete details about the benefits a new playground would bring to specific groups of students, such as those with different physical abilities or interests.

Score: 43/50

Section 2:

A Heartfelt Request for the Renewal of Our Playground

Dear Mr McSweeney,

I hope you are well. I am writing on behalf of all the many students at our school who feel a deep concern for the current state of our school playground. It has become a place that no longer sparks joy or encourages movement. What should be a safe, colourful haven for fun and friendship has turned into a dull, tired space that feels forgotten. Everyone in this school has gotten used to it and for kindies to play on the rusted equipment is just not safe.

#1 The faded paint clings to old structures like the last breath of something that used to be wonderful. The ground is hard and cracked, making each fall feel more painful than it should. The equipment creaks and wobbles, like it's sighing under the weight of time. For many of us, the playground is no longer a place of adventure, but one of caution. And for some students, it's a place they avoid altogether. Just imagine all the kids that could get hurt, ~~the school area,~~ ~~students and staff are affecting the school's reputation~~ [these conditions affect our school's reputation among students, staff and the community].

We believe that a renovated playground would do more than fix these problems, it would breathe life back into the heart of our school. Picture vibrant colours dancing across slides and climbing frames, the soft bounce of safe rubber under our feet, and the excited chatter of students creating games and memories together. A space like this would not only lift our spirits but improve our wellbeing and encourage stronger friendships. This helps the children to be healthier both physically and mentally.

A brighter, safer playground would be a gift to every child who feels left out or bored during break time. It would offer new ways to connect with others, release energy in a healthy way, and return to class feeling refreshed. It would show us that our voices matter and that our school is a place where our happiness counts. Our school would be known as a school with kindness spreading around and students happier than ever before.

#2 Studies have shown that play is just as important for learning as what happens inside the classroom. It helps with mental health, focus, and resilience. And right now, we are missing out on all of that. A simple improvement to our play space could make a world of difference. It could turn recess into something we look forward to, instead of just another time to sit and wait.

#3 We are not asking for something extravagant. Just a safe, exciting place where we can be kids. Where we can run, climb, laugh, and feel proud of the space we share. We would be so grateful for your support and would love the opportunity to work with you on ideas. We're even happy to help with fundraising or planning if needed.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. We truly hope you see the same potential we do---that with a little care, our playground could become the heart of our school again.

Sincerely yours, Sophie 6B