

Section 1

#1 Paragraph 2:

Strengths: Your description of the playground's deteriorating condition is vivid and emotional. You effectively create a sense of urgency by mentioning specific injuries that have occurred recently.

Weaknesses: Vague Evidence → Your claims about injuries lack specific details that would make them more convincing. Phrases like "4 students sustained injuries" and "many students have tripped" could be strengthened with more precise information about when these incidents happened and who was affected.

Exemplar: *"Last Tuesday, Emma from 6B required medical attention after cutting her arm on the jagged metal edge of the slide, while three other students visited the nurse with similar injuries throughout the week."*

#2 Paragraph 5:

Strengths: You've included research to support your argument, which adds credibility. You've also connected playground quality to academic performance, showing why this matters beyond safety.

Weaknesses: Underdeveloped Argument → The connection between your research and your specific playground needs more development. Phrases like "Research from the Australian Institute of Sport suggests" and "13% increase in test scores" need to be directly connected to how your school would benefit from these improvements.

Exemplar: *"Based on the Australian Institute of Sport research, renovating our playground could help our school improve our NAPLAN results in English and Mathematics by up to 13%, while also reducing the growing number of students who spend lunchtime sitting inactive on the concrete."*

#3 Paragraph 7:

Strengths: You've provided a clear list of specific issues that need addressing, which makes your request more actionable. The numbered format makes these points easy to understand.

Weaknesses: Repetitive Information → Several points repeat information already mentioned earlier. Phrases like "serious tripping hazard" and "serious hazard to students" appear multiple times in your email, making your argument seem circular rather than progressive.

Exemplar: *"1. Resurface the cracked basketball court concrete to eliminate tripping hazards and create a safe playing surface."*

■ Your persuasive email shows good understanding of the issue but would benefit from more specific examples throughout. You've started strong by identifying yourself as a student, which gives you credibility, but your arguments sometimes overlap between paragraphs. Try to give each paragraph a clear focus to avoid repeating the same points about safety hazards. You could improve paragraph 6 by offering more specific suggestions for how students might help with fundraising or sharing feedback. Also, your email would be more powerful if you included a stronger conclusion that reinforces why this matter is urgent and important. Your email touches on academic benefits but could expand on how a renovated playground would improve school spirit and student wellbeing. Add more personal touches by describing how you and your friends feel when you can't use the playground properly.

Overall Score: 41/50

Section 2:

Re: Urgent Action for Playground Renovations To: J.Thompson@education.nsw.gov.au

Dear Principal Thompson,

I am Jay, a concerned student from class 6~~6~~ [6O] of our school. I am writing to express my utmost concern regarding our playground's deteriorating condition and to respectfully request immediate action for the safety of our school's students.

#1 Our once vibrant playground has turned into a hazardous nightmare of protruding metal and splintered plastic. The swing set chains are rusted to the point of screeching painfully with every movement. During the last week alone, 4 students sustained injuries from the metal edges of the severely damaged slide, and many students have tripped on the uneven, potholed concrete of the basketball court. Furthermore, many students have been sunburned due to the limited shade. Our playground should be a place of joy and happiness, not fear and avoidance.

Our playground poses a serious hazard to our students, the benches are splintered and unusable, the swings are rusted beyond use, and many pieces of play equipment are missing or broken. The plastic and metal of the slides ~~have to~~ [need to] be replaced because of the

dangerous splintering and dangerous protruding edges, which have caused 28% of serious school nurse visits last year. These are clearly a safety risk. The concrete is also a major tripping hazard, with two ~~grade~~ [Year] 6 students and 1 ~~grade~~ [Year] 2 student having scrapes and bruises just last week alone. Measures could be taken to flatten out the concrete to avoid this.

Because of inadequate sun shade many students have received serious sunburns. Our ~~teared~~ [torn] and frayed shade cloth provides woefully insufficient sun protection leaving students to be scorched in the warmer seasons. If under the sun ~~in~~ [for] long periods ~~time~~ during the summer, students have a significant chance to develop skin cancer or ailments due to the lack of trees ~~of~~ [or] shade.

#2 Many students just sit on the uneven concrete floor with nothing to do. Research from the Australian Institute of Sport suggests that physical activity is crucial for cognitive development. Their studies show that schools with well-maintained play facilities see a 13% increase in test scores in English, Mathematics and Thinking Skills. Additionally, students who lack ~~in~~ physical activity have a higher chance of developing obesity. Our school deserves nothing less than a safe environment that supports both physical and intellectual development. Students should view break time with anticipation rather than anxiety.

I advise you to set a meeting between the P&C and the School Maintenance Branch to resolve this ongoing issue in our playground. We understand that fixing our playground would push the budget of our school, but we believe that safety should be a top priority. Whether it's fundraising or sharing feedback, students can help make this ~~reality~~ [happen]. Renovating our playground would not just prevent injuries, it would let students enjoy the outdoors.

#3 Here are some key points that could be fixed.

1. Cracked concrete, the concrete at our school is a serious tripping hazard.
2. Well maintained equipment, the equipment at our school is deteriorating and poses a serious hazard to students.
3. Improved benches, the wooden benches are unusable, they are splintered and are prone to breaking when sitting down.
4. Safe playground, when the condition of our playground dropped, the equipment became increasingly dangerous, sharp protruding metal on the slides and ~~splitters~~ [splinters] in the benches are only a few examples.

I would greatly appreciate it if you could act on this at your earliest convenience.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely ~~Jay~~. [Jay] Year 5 [6] Student Representative Jay.@education.gov.nsw.au

Section 1:

#1 "Our playground went from the highlight of our day to an anxiety inducing ghost town. The playground has become a skeleton of itself, where rusted, corroded metal takes the place of fun equipment. The basketball court has more craters than the moon. We deserve better than the countless injuries and mindless recesses."

Strengths: Your vivid imagery creates a powerful mental picture of the deteriorated playground. Your passionate tone effectively communicates your frustration.

Melodramatic language → Your description uses overly dramatic words that might reduce credibility. Phrases like "anxiety inducing ghost town" and "skeleton of itself" sound exaggerated. While emotive language is important in persuasive writing, balancing it with specific facts would make your argument stronger.

"Our playground has changed from being the highlight of our day to a neglected, unsafe area. The equipment is rusted and damaged, while the basketball court is full of dangerous holes. We deserve a playground that's both safe and enjoyable during our breaks."

#2 "But what can we do about it? Everything. As students we have the right to request changes and additions via our elected representatives, our student council. By petitioning them to raise this issue to Principal Thompson we can achieve a better playground."

Strengths: You provide a clear call to action and empower students by reminding them of their rights. Your solution is practical and works within the school system.

Underdeveloped solution → While you mention petitioning the student council, you don't fully explain how this process works or what specific requests should be made. The reader needs more details about what "everything" actually means in practical terms.

"As students, we can take meaningful action by working through our student council. We need to create a detailed petition that outlines specific problems with the playground, suggests reasonable improvements, and proposes realistic funding solutions to present to Principal Thompson."

#3 "We can fundraise and get donations all to go to the cost of renovating our playground. Even though we are students we can make a stand. If we talk to our parents to start fundraises in the P&C to go towards this project we can start a major school movement."

Strengths: You recognise budget constraints and offer practical solutions. You involve multiple stakeholders (students, parents, P&C) in your plan.

Vague fundraising plan → Your fundraising ideas lack specific details. You don't mention what kinds of fundraisers might work, how much money might be needed, or how students would be involved beyond talking to parents.

"We can organise specific fundraising activities like a school fair, sponsored sports day, or a community garage sale, with all proceeds going towards playground renovations. We'll work with our parents to present a proposal to the P&C committee, including cost estimates and a timeline for improvements."

■ Your persuasive email shows genuine passion and concern for an important issue affecting all students. You've identified safety hazards and included a personal anecdote about Bob from Year 2, which adds credibility to your argument. However, your piece would be more convincing with more specific details about the current problems. Try focusing on 2-3 specific hazards with clear examples rather than general complaints. Also, your action plan needs more development - outline exactly what steps students should take and when. Your conclusion could be strengthened by clearly restating the main benefits of fixing the playground. Additionally, consider reorganising your email to present the strongest points first to immediately grab attention. Your numbered list at the end is a good start, but each point could be expanded with specific instructions.

Score: 40/50

Section 2:

Re: Our Playground is Falling Apart- Let's fix it! To: Studentcouncil@education.nsw.gov.au

Hey everyone!

Have you seen the state of our playground recently? It's pitiful.

#1 Our playground went from the highlight of our day to an anxiety inducing ghost town. The playground has become a skeleton of itself, where rusted, corroded metal takes the place of fun equipment. The basketball court has more craters than the moon. We deserve better than the countless injuries and mindless recesses. Recently I overheard the teacher on duty say that we "weren't active enough during breaks" and they wonder why!

This isn't just about having fun, it's about our safety. Have you ever cut or scraped yourself on the dangerous protruding metal? Remember when we could play on the equipment without the fear of the rickety metal collapsing? We can't even play ball games without tripping over the

giant ~~petholed~~ [potholes] on the pathway or basketball court. Don't believe me? Just yesterday, I watched poor Bob from ~~year~~ [Year] 2 slip and fall hard on the concrete ground when he tried to play handball.

We need to talk about the shade situation. We basically fry under the sun until we're allowed to come back inside. Good luck trying to find a shady area in the summer. We can't even talk without being scorched. Every break increases the risk of skin cancer, and you don't want that ~~do you.~~ [do you?]

#2 But what can we do about it? Everything. As students we have the right to request changes and additions via our elected representatives, our student council. By petitioning them to raise this issue to Principal Thompson we can achieve a better playground. But we have to address some serious concerns first. ~~One our~~ [One, our] school doesn't have a lot of money. To fix a playground you have to pay for materials, people to fix it and replace the equipment. Principal Thompson might just shrug it off and not do it because of budget constraints. But we must not let that happen.

If we fail we will never have another chance to fix our ruined playground.

Can you imagine a playground with smooth surfaces for ball games and sturdy, reliable equipment that isn't rusted and damaged and maybe even a shade cloth so we don't fry on hot days~~.~~ [?] I sure can, and we can make this dream a reality. If we group together we can ~~for~~ ~~sure~~ [definitely] achieve this.

#3 We can fundraise and get donations all to go ~~to the~~ [towards the] cost of renovating our playground. Even though we are students we can make a stand. If we talk to our parents to start ~~fundraises~~ [fundraisers] in the P&C to go towards this project we can start a major school movement. If this succeeds we will no longer have to be afraid every time we step onto the playground. We can make major changes in the school playground. As students we can make change in our school.

I'm going to start a group to petition for our much needed playground renovations.

To really make a point ~~lets~~ [let's]:

1. Take photos of the worst areas of the playground.
2. Share stories about close calls and accidents you've seen.
3. Present ideas for a dream playground.
4. Sign the petition and help fundraise.

We can make this happen!

Thanks, Jay The kid who's afraid of skin cancer.

