

## Section 1

### Part #1

#### Strengths:

- Strong emotional appeal through repetition of "You are removing" structure
- Effective use of metaphors ("lifeline," "sanctuary," "bridge") to convey library's importance

**Weakness:** Limited concrete impact description → While you effectively use emotional language, your opening lacks specific examples of how the library directly benefits community members. The repetition of "You are removing" creates impact, but phrases like "a lifeline for students" would be more powerful with specific details about what this "lifeline" provides.

**Exemplar:** *"By deciding to destroy our community's library, you are removing the only place where over 200 local students complete their homework each week, the sanctuary where elderly residents combat isolation through reading groups, and the bridge that has helped 57 local residents secure employment through its free internet access and CV services last year alone."*

### Part #2

#### Strengths:

- Excellent use of statistical evidence about Australian libraries
- Effective rhetorical questions to prompt council reflection

**Weakness:** Underdeveloped connection between statistics and local context → Your statistics about Australian libraries provide strong evidence but fail to explicitly connect to your specific community situation. The jump from national statistics to rhetorical questions about local impact creates a gap in your argument. The reader needs help understanding how these impressive numbers relate directly to your community library.

**Exemplar:** *"In our own community, these statistics translate to approximately 15,000 annual visits, primarily from lower-income neighbourhoods where home internet access is limited to 65% of households—compared to 95% in wealthier areas of our town, according to recent council surveys."*

## **Part #3**

### **Strengths:**

- Strong counterargument paragraph addressing economic benefits
- Effective contrast between temporary economic gains and lasting library benefits

**Weakness:** Vague alternative solutions → Your counterargument effectively acknowledges potential economic benefits but doesn't provide specific alternatives that would satisfy both community needs and council economic concerns. Phrases like "Libraries create pathways to success" would be stronger with concrete examples of how your library specifically achieves this while contributing to economic vitality.

**Exemplar:** *"Rather than demolishing our library, consider the mixed-use development model successfully implemented in Manchester, where the ground floor maintains a modern library space while upper floors generate revenue through affordable housing—creating both cultural preservation and sustainable income for community services."*

■ Your piece demonstrates passionate advocacy and employs several persuasive techniques effectively. The repetitive structures create rhythm and emphasis, while your rhetorical questions challenge council members to reflect on their decision. To strengthen your argument further, focus on providing more local context alongside your statistics. Also, consider adding specific examples of individuals or groups who rely on the library services. The environmental paragraph could benefit from local environmental impact data rather than general concerns. Additionally, your conclusion would be more powerful if you offered a specific call to action beyond preserving the library—perhaps suggesting a community meeting or requesting a formal impact assessment. Breaking up some of your longer sentences would also improve readability and impact, especially in paragraphs where you build emotional appeals.

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**Overall Score: 43/50**

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## Section 2:

Dear Council Members,

This choice is more than just a simple decision—it is a turning point. This choice cannot stand. This choice cannot be justified. This choice cannot be forgiven. By deciding to destroy our community's library, you are doing more than removing walls and shelves. You are removing a lifeline for students. You are removing a sanctuary for readers. You are removing a bridge to opportunity for families and individuals who depend on this vital institution. #1

You are choosing to tear apart a space that has been the heart of this community. You are choosing to ignore the needs of students who find guidance and resources within the library walls. You are choosing to deny families a place where stories are shared, knowledge is discovered, and bonds are built. Is this truly the vision of progress?

The library is more than a building. It is a haven for those who seek knowledge but cannot afford private tutors. It is a home for students from disadvantaged backgrounds who need a quiet place to study and access free resources. Did you know that in Australia, public libraries hosted over 3.5 million participants in programs and facilitated more than 146 million instances of collection usage in just one year? Additionally, libraries provided over 4.8 million hours of free Wi-Fi access, ensuring digital inclusion for those who might otherwise be left behind. What happens when these vital services are taken away? What happens to the dreams of the child who sees the library as a stepping stone to their future? What happens to the identity of a community when its cultural hub is torn down? #2

This is not just a loss for the present generation; it is a loss for every generation to come. The library is a repository of knowledge. The library is a symbol of equality. The library is a testament to the power of education and community. By tearing it down, you are sending a message: that profit is more important than people, that commerce is more valuable than culture, and that short-term gains outweigh long-term ~~Have~~ [benefits].

Have you considered the environmental costs? Have you thought about the pollution, the carbon emissions, and the loss of green spaces that come with this decision? Have you thought about what it will mean to walk through a town filled with cars, concrete, and skyscrapers, devoid of the colour and vibrancy that makes it truly unique? Is this what you want our community to become?

You might argue that a shopping complex will boost the economy or create jobs, and perhaps it will—for now. But storefronts can pop up anywhere. Libraries, however, cannot be so easily replaced. Libraries are investments in people. Libraries create pathways to success. Libraries nurture a community's soul in a way no shopping mall ever can. Even the wealthiest among us—business leaders, Nobel laureates, and innovators—often point to public libraries as places that shaped their early lives and their futures. #3

You have the power to protect this library. You have the power to uphold the values of education, equity, and opportunity. You have the power to choose a legacy of progress, wisdom, and inclusion. The library is not just a building. It is hope. It is history. It is the heart of our community.

Choose to preserve it. Choose to fight for what matters. Choose to be remembered as the council that stood with its people, not against them. This is more than just a decision; it is a reflection of who we are and who we aspire to be. Do the right thing—not just for today, but for the countless tomorrows that lie ahead.