

Writing Feedback

DAY 7 | 22nd of April | HOLIDAY WRITING HOMEWORK

Section 1:

#1: Silverwater Creek's Toxic Burden: An Urgent Call for Remediation The waters of Silverwater Creek, once a vital part of Parramatta's natural landscape, now carry a concerning burden of pollution. Decades of industrial activity have left a legacy of contamination, posing a threat to local ecosystems and raising legitimate concerns within the community. This situation demands immediate and comprehensive attention.

Strengths:

- Your headline effectively captures the essence of the issue and signals the call to action.
- You've created a compelling hook by contrasting the creek's past ("vital part") with its present state ("concerning burden").

Weakness: Underdeveloped introduction. → While your opening paragraph introduces the problem, it lacks specific details that would immediately engage readers and establish the severity of the situation. Phrases like "concerning burden" and "legitimate concerns" are vague when they could be more impactful with specific examples or statistics right from the start.

Exemplar: *"Silverwater Creek's Toxic Burden: An Urgent Call for Remediation. The waters of Silverwater Creek, once teeming with native fish and serving as Parramatta's natural lifeblood, now carry alarming levels of lead and mercury—up to five times the acceptable safety standards according to recent studies. Decades of unchecked industrial activity have transformed this vital waterway into a toxic channel, threatening both aquatic ecosystems and the health of local residents who have reported increasing cases of respiratory issues. This environmental crisis demands immediate and comprehensive intervention."*

#2: The core of the Silverwater Creek pollution issue lies in historical industrial practices and ongoing urban runoff. Industries operating along its banks over the years have released heavy metals and persistent organic pollutants into the creek's sediment and surrounding areas. A 2023 independent study provided clear evidence of this, identifying significant concentrations of substances like lead, mercury, and

PFAS. According to Dr. Eleanor Vance, a toxicologist from the University of New South Wales involved in the research, "The levels detected present a clear and concerning risk to the health of the aquatic environment and potentially to human health through the accumulation of these toxins in the food web." This historical contamination is further compounded by contemporary urban runoff, which introduces additional pollutants from roads and industrial zones directly into the creek. Addressing this requires tackling both the existing contamination and the ongoing sources.

Strengths:

- Your inclusion of expert testimony from Dr. Vance builds credibility.
- You effectively identify both historical and contemporary sources of pollution.

Weakness: Limited evidence presentation. → While you mention a 2023 study and include specific pollutants, your paragraph would be stronger with more precise data. The phrase "significant concentrations" doesn't convey the actual severity, and readers cannot gauge how far above safe levels these pollutants are. Additionally, the paragraph identifies problems but offers no context about efforts that might already be underway.

Exemplar: *"The core of the Silverwater Creek pollution issue lies in historical industrial practices and ongoing urban runoff. Industries operating along its banks since the 1950s have released heavy metals and persistent organic pollutants, creating sediment with contamination levels exceeding national safety standards by 300% in some areas. The 2023 independent study by the Environmental Research Institute provided quantifiable evidence of this crisis, identifying concentrations of lead (4.7mg/L), mercury (0.8mg/L), and PFAS (920ng/L)—all significantly above Australia's freshwater quality guidelines. According to Dr. Eleanor Vance..."*

#3: Restoring Silverwater Creek will require a determined and well-resourced effort. Implementing robust regulations on industrial discharge, alongside significant investment in remediation strategies, is essential. Furthermore, engaging the local community in the stewardship of the creek will be vital for its long-term recovery. The need to address the toxic burden of Silverwater Creek is clear. By taking decisive action now, we can work towards a future where this waterway once again supports a healthy and thriving ecosystem for the benefit of all!

Strengths:

- Your conclusion appropriately emphasizes collective action with "we can work towards."
- You identify three key components for remediation: regulations, investment, and community engagement.

Weakness: Generic conclusion. → Your conclusion lacks specific, actionable recommendations and remains at a general level with phrases like "determined and well-resourced effort" and "robust regulations." The exclamation mark at the end creates an abrupt tone shift that feels out of place with the serious nature of the article. The conclusion doesn't specify who should take what actions or provide a concrete vision of what success would look like.

Exemplar: *"Restoring Silverwater Creek will require coordinated action from government agencies, local industries, and community members. The NSW Environmental Protection Authority must implement and enforce stricter discharge limits specifically targeting the identified contaminants, while local councils should allocate at least \$2.3 million—the estimated minimum cost according to environmental engineers—toward sediment removal and biological remediation techniques. Community organisations like 'Friends of Silverwater Creek' can establish monthly monitoring programmes and educational initiatives to prevent future contamination. By implementing these specific measures within the next five years, we can transform Silverwater Creek from a cautionary tale of industrial negligence into a model of environmental restoration that once again supports diverse aquatic life and provides safe recreational spaces for Parramatta residents."*

■ Your piece presents a good foundation for discussing the Silverwater Creek pollution issue, but needs more depth and specificity to be truly compelling. The paragraphs following PEEL structure need stronger evidence components with more precise data and examples. You've included expert quotes which build credibility, but your article would benefit from more vivid descriptions of the creek's current state—perhaps contrasting it with historical accounts of its healthier past. Additionally, the balanced perspectives need more development; the business perspective is mentioned briefly but needs more nuance. Your call to action would be more persuasive with specific, targeted recommendations rather than general statements. Consider adding a personal story from a local resident affected by the pollution to create emotional resonance with readers. Also, incorporate more sensory details about the creek's current condition to help readers visualize the urgency of the situation. Specific timelines for proposed remediation would add practicality to your persuasive argument.

Score: 42/50

Section 2:

Silverwater Creek's Toxic Burden: An Urgent Call for Remediation

#1: The waters of Silverwater Creek, once a vital part of Parramatta's natural landscape, now carry a concerning burden of pollution. Decades of industrial activity have left a legacy of contamination, posing a threat to local ecosystems and raising legitimate concerns within the community. This situation demands immediate and comprehensive attention.

#2: The core of the Silverwater Creek pollution issue lies in historical industrial practices and ongoing urban runoff. Industries operating along its banks over the years have released heavy metals and persistent organic pollutants into the creek's sediment and surrounding areas. A 2023 independent study provided clear evidence of this, identifying significant concentrations of substances like lead, mercury, and PFAS. According to Dr. Eleanor Vance, a toxicologist from the University of New South Wales involved in the research, "The levels detected present a clear and concerning risk to the health of the aquatic environment and potentially to human health through the accumulation of these toxins in the food web." This historical contamination is further compounded by contemporary urban runoff, which introduces additional pollutants from roads and industrial ~~zones~~ [areas] directly into the creek. Addressing this requires tackling both the existing contamination and the ongoing sources.

While acknowledging the past economic significance of the industries along Silverwater Creek, it is crucial to ~~recognize~~ [recognise] the long-term environmental costs. Representatives from local business circles have pointed to the economic benefits these industries provided. However, this perspective often overlooks the broader implications of environmental damage, including potential health issues and the loss of biodiversity. The community, on the other hand, is increasingly vocal about the need for action. Residents report noticeable environmental degradation, including unpleasant odours and reduced wildlife. Sarah Miller, from the "Friends of Silverwater Creek," ~~emphasizes~~ [emphasises], "This is about the health of our community and the environment we live in. We need authorities to take this seriously and implement effective cleanup measures."

This community advocacy, combined with the scientific data, underscores the ethical imperative for ~~remediation~~ [remediation].

#3: Restoring Silverwater Creek will require a determined and well-resourced effort. Implementing robust regulations on industrial discharge, alongside significant investment in remediation strategies, is essential. Furthermore, engaging the local community in the stewardship of the creek will be vital for its long-term recovery. The need to address the toxic burden of Silverwater Creek is clear. By taking decisive action now, we can work towards a future where this waterway once again supports a healthy and thriving ecosystem for the benefit of all! [.]