

# Writing Feedback

TERM 1 2025 | 18th April | HOLIDAY WRITING

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## Section 1:

#1 (Formal Email, 2nd paragraph) *Strengths:*

- Strong use of persuasive evidence by highlighting safety concerns with specific examples like "slips or falls" and "cuts, scrapes".
- Good use of emotive and descriptive language to create urgency around the playground issues.

*Weakness:* Lack of specificity about the current playground condition. → Your paragraph mentions general hazards but doesn't provide concrete details about the actual state of your school's playground, making your argument less compelling. For instance, you write about "litter and debris" but don't specify what particular problems exist in your playground currently.

*Exemplar: To begin with, a clean playground ensures everyone's safety. Our current playground, with its broken swing chains, splintered wooden benches, and scattered glass fragments near the football pitch, poses significant hazards that have already led to three minor injuries this term alone.*

#2 (Formal Email, 4th paragraph) *Strengths:*

- Excellent connection between playground cleanliness and students' mental wellbeing.
- Sophisticated vocabulary and formal register appropriate for addressing the principal.

*Weakness:* Excessive generalization. → You present general claims about the benefits of clean environments on mental health without connecting them specifically to your school context or providing evidence. When you write "clean, organized spaces are known to promote feelings of calm and happiness," you could strengthen this with school-specific observations or research.

*Exemplar: A clean playground significantly impacts students' wellbeing. Since our Year 3 students began experiencing increasing anxiety during outdoor activities, our*

*school counsellor has noted that cluttered environments contribute to heightened stress levels. Studies from the British School Health Association demonstrate that orderly recreational spaces improve concentration by 27% and reduce playground conflicts by nearly a third.*

#3 (Informal Email, 3rd paragraph) *Strengths:*

- Effectively uses an informal, conversational tone appropriate for fellow students.
- Good establishment of emotional connection with phrases like "it's kind of sad".

*Weakness:* Limited persuasiveness. → Your paragraph expresses disappointment but doesn't effectively motivate students to action. You mention that "if it was cleaner, more people would enjoy it" without providing compelling reasons for why they should personally care or get involved.

*Exemplar: It's actually super disappointing because our playground could be amazing! Remember how awesome it was when we first started school? Kids from other years used to beg to use our space! If we all pitch in to clean it up, we could bring back those epic football matches and actually have somewhere decent to chill during breaks instead of being squashed in the corridors when it rains.*

Your writing demonstrates a good understanding of the differences between formal and informal registers. The formal email maintains an appropriate tone throughout and includes necessary email components. Your informal email effectively uses contractions, colloquial phrases, and a conversational style that works well for communicating with peers.

The structure of both emails is generally logical, with clear introductions, supporting paragraphs, and conclusions. However, your writing would benefit from more specific details about the current playground condition, concrete examples of how improvements would benefit the school community, and stronger calls to action.

■ The depth of content in your formal email shows more development than your informal email. While both pieces include emotive and descriptive language, you could enhance the persuasive impact by incorporating more concrete details about the current playground state and specific improvements needed. Additionally, your formal email would benefit from including practical details such as potential funding sources or a timeline for improvements, making your proposal more actionable for the principal. Your informal email needs a stronger call to action to motivate fellow students to support your

campaign. Try to create a sense of urgency and excitement that will encourage immediate participation.

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**Overall score: 44/50**

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## Section 2:

### Formal Email

Subject: Request for Urgent Playground Renovations

Dear Principal Bob,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to discuss an issue that is becoming more and more noticeable at our school—the condition of our playground. As we all know, the playground is an essential space for students to engage in physical activities, **socialize** [socialise], and unwind during the school day. However, it is evident that the current state of the playground is not ideal. I would like to explain why I believe we should take action and clean up our school playground, making it a safer, healthier, and more enjoyable space for all of us.

**#1** To begin with, a clean playground ensures the safety of everyone who uses it. Litter and debris can create hazards that might lead to accidents, injuries, or illnesses. Small pieces of trash can cause slips or falls, while broken or discarded items—such as sharp objects or damaged play equipment—can lead to cuts, scrapes, or even more serious injuries. Additionally, food wrappers, plastic bottles, and other refuse can attract pests like rodents or insects, which could pose health risks to students. By taking steps to clean up the playground regularly, we reduce these risks and ensure that students can enjoy their time outside without worrying about their safety.

Moreover, a tidy playground promotes a more positive environment for learning and play. When students see a clean, well-maintained area, it sends a message that the space is cared for and respected. On the other hand, a litter-strewn playground can give the impression that the space is neglected, which can affect the way students view it. A dirty playground might even discourage students from using the space altogether. By keeping

the playground clean, we are more likely to create an inviting atmosphere where students feel comfortable and excited to play and ~~socialize~~ [socialise] with their peers.

**#2** Another significant benefit of a clean playground is the sense of pride and responsibility it can instill in the students. When everyone pitches in to help keep the playground clean, it fosters a sense of ownership and pride in the space. It also teaches students valuable life skills, such as teamwork, cooperation, and environmental stewardship. By taking part in keeping the playground clean, students can learn about the importance of maintaining shared spaces and taking care of the world around them. These lessons will stay with them long after they leave the playground, shaping their attitudes toward public spaces and community involvement.

A clean playground also has a positive impact on students' mental and emotional well-being. A cluttered, messy environment can have a negative effect on our mood and ability to focus. Conversely, clean, ~~organized~~ [organised] spaces are known to promote feelings of calm and happiness. A well-maintained playground encourages students to engage in physical activity, which in turn improves mental health and reduces stress. A clean and orderly environment contributes to a positive school culture, where students feel valued, safe, and respected.

Finally, cleaning up the playground can be a great opportunity to bring the school community together. ~~Organizing~~ [Organising] a regular clean-up initiative could involve students, teachers, and staff working together toward a common goal. It could be turned into a fun, team-building event, where students are divided into groups to tackle different areas of the playground. Not only would this make the task more manageable, but it would also teach students the importance of collaboration and responsibility. Such initiatives can help strengthen the sense of community within the school.

In conclusion, cleaning and maintaining our playground is an essential part of creating a safe, welcoming, and healthy environment for all students. A clean playground promotes safety, positive behavior, and pride in our school, while also contributing to the mental and physical well-being of everyone involved. I believe that by working together as a school community, we can ensure that our playground is a place we can all enjoy, care for, and be proud of. I hope you will consider implementing regular clean-up efforts or encouraging students to take an active role in maintaining this important space.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this matter.

Sincerely, Lucas Xie.

## Informal Email

Subject: Let's Make Our Playground Awesome Again! 🏀🌳

Hey Principal Bob,

I hope you're doing good! I just wanted to talk about something that's been bothering me and a bunch of other students too — the playground. Lately, it's been really dirty, and honestly, it's getting kind of gross. I figured it might help to just say something, since we all spend a lot of time out there and it's kind of a big part of the school day for a lot of us.

Every time we go outside for recess or break, there's always trash lying around — stuff like candy wrappers, plastic bottles, empty chip bags, even random things like broken pencils or old masks. Sometimes it looks like people just dump stuff there and forget about it. It makes it harder to enjoy being outside, because you're either stepping over garbage or trying to find a clean spot to sit or play. It's not just annoying, it also feels kind of unsafe. You never know what someone might have left behind, and I've even seen people trip over stuff that shouldn't be there.

#3 It's also kind of sad, because we have a great playground. It could be a really nice space if it was taken care of better. A lot of kids like hanging out there, playing games, or just relaxing for a few minutes, but when it's dirty, people don't want to use it as much. I think if it was cleaner, more people would enjoy it and take better care of it too.

I know it's not just up to the school to clean everything up, and part of it is that some people just leave their trash behind. But maybe there's a way we can all help fix it. Like, maybe there could be more trash cans around the playground, or signs reminding people to pick up after themselves. Or maybe we could even have a clean-up day once in a while, where students help out for like 10 minutes during recess. I think a lot of people would be willing to do that if it meant having a cleaner space to hang out.

I also think it would help if teachers or staff could maybe remind students every now and then to clean up after themselves. I know it might seem small, but hearing it often could make people think twice before just dropping trash on the ground.

Anyway, I'm not trying to complain too much — I just wanted to bring it up because I think a lot of people have noticed it, and it's starting to make the playground not as fun to be in. I know you've got a lot to deal with, but I thought it was worth mentioning. Thanks for taking the time to read this, and I really appreciate everything you do for us.

Best, Lucas Xie