

Writing Feedback

TERM 1 2025 | 16th April | DAY 3 WRITING HOMEWORK

Section 1:

#1 (First paragraph, beginning with "Dear Diary, On May the 2nd...")

Strengths:

- Your emotive language effectively conveys anxiety about the upcoming test.
- You've created a sense of urgency through phrases like "haunting nightmare" and "unforgiving terror."

Weakness: Overuse of dramatic metaphors → Your writing relies heavily on extreme negative imagery such as "haunting nightmare," "owl looming," and "unforgiving terror." While these phrases create emotional impact, the excessive use diminishes their effectiveness and makes the entry feel melodramatic. Using varied emotional expressions would create a more authentic voice in your diary entry.

Exemplar: *Dear Diary, On May 2nd, the selective test awaits us like a mountain I must climb. My stomach tightens at the thought of that day when we'll discover our futures - some faces bright with relief, others clouded with disappointment.*

#2 (Second paragraph, beginning with "To try get in to a selective school...")

Strengths:

- You effectively share personal sacrifices made for this goal, showing commitment.
- Your inclusion of specific rewards and consequences makes the stakes feel real.

Weakness: Underdeveloped personal reflection → While you mention actions taken (deleting games, completing homework), you don't explore your feelings about these sacrifices or how they've changed you. A diary typically includes deeper personal reflections about motivations, fears, and growth. The entry would benefit from exploring how these preparations have affected you emotionally.

Exemplar: *I've deleted all my games to focus on studying, which has been harder than I expected. Sometimes I find myself staring at the empty space on my screen where Fortnite used to be, wondering if this sacrifice will be worth it. The five files of homework each night leave me exhausted, but also slightly proud of my endurance.*

#3 (Third paragraph, beginning with "For the final week...")

Strengths:

- Your determination comes through strongly in your detailed study plans.
- The reference to Eminem's lyrics adds a cultural touchpoint that resonates with readers.

Weakness: Incomplete exploration of motivation → Your entry focuses primarily on fear of failure and external rewards/punishments rather than personal growth or learning goals. The extreme statement about self-harm reflects unhealthy pressure. Exploring more balanced motivations would create a more nuanced and realistic diary entry that shows personal agency beyond parental expectations.

Exemplar: *For the final week, I'll be intensifying my study schedule, spending most of my time reviewing past papers and strengthening weak areas. This opportunity to attend a selective school matters to me not just for my parents' approval, but because I want to challenge myself academically and build a stronger foundation for my future.*

■ Your diary entry effectively captures the pressure surrounding selective school testing, which many young students can relate to. However, the writing would benefit from more balance between expressing anxiety and showing personal agency. Consider developing your voice beyond just fear and external pressure - what are your hopes and aspirations? What strengths have you discovered during preparation? Also, your entry could incorporate more sensory details to bring your experience to life - how does your study space look and feel? What specific subjects or questions challenge you most? Try varying your sentence structure more to create rhythm in your writing. Finally, add more personal reflection about why this opportunity matters to you beyond parental expectations or gaming rewards, which would help readers connect more deeply with your experience.

Overall Score: 42/50

Section 2:

Dear Diary,

On May ~~the~~ [the] 2nd, the haunting nightmare, the owl looming over us, it's going to happen. Tears will be rushing out of our eyes, in disappointment or successfulness. All the children suffering, because their parents want them to get ~~in to~~ [into] it but they didn't. We've been preparing for this nightmare ~~so~~ [for so] long, most of you guys started to prepare at seven years old. All the extra time of learning ~~then~~ [than] the normal kids, are you going to let this opportunity slide, or capture it. More than ten thousand children are going to participate, and only around 600 can get ~~in to~~ [into] it. I'm sure you guys are also preparing for the unforgiving terror, the selective test. You welcome, I did the calculation for you, each school can have around 80 kids to get in, and there ~~is~~ [are] 8 top ten selective schools, and eight times eight equals 64, 64 times 10 is 640, so only 640 kids can get into top ten selective schools. I chose North Sydney Boys, Normanhurst Boy college, and Manly college, the test will be extremely hard for me, since I only get around 70% accuracy for the practice tests.

#1

#2 To try ~~get in to~~ [to get into] a selective school, I deleted my games so I can focus more and spend more time on learning. I can't control myself to stop playing games so I just deleted them, I'm going to download my games back after selective whether I get in or not. If I can get ~~in~~ [into] a selective school, my mum is going to get me Fortnite, and buy me as much V-bucks as I want. I can also play games ~~when ever~~ [whenever] I want and my mum wouldn't really care if I do something bad. Right now, I have five files of homework everyday and three tests. If I don't get into selective, I'm not going to go into a good high school, because I'm at Willoughby school and the Willoughby high school is for girls only, so I can only go to Chatswood, and Chatswood isn't that good of a school, so selective is my only option.

#3 For the final week, I'm going to lock myself up in a room, and not go out, studying 24/7. If I don't go into selective I'm going to break my own arm, since I didn't try hard enough. These weeks are going to be super hard for you, me and all of the ten thousand kids. You only got one shot, do not miss your chance to blow, this opportunity comes once in a lifetime.