

Writing Feedback

TERM 1 2025 | 17th April | DAY 4 | HOLIDAY WRITING

Section 1:

#1 (Paragraph 1) Strengths: Your opening paragraph effectively establishes the devastating impact of the wildfires with vivid details about the acres burned and evacuations. You've created a strong emotional connection by mentioning the "staggering" toll on families. Weakness: Lack of international context → Your piece fails to address how these bushfires relate to the international community, which was a key requirement in the prompt. There's no mention of global response or how these events might be relevant beyond California's borders. The focus remains entirely domestic despite the prompt asking for coverage of an "event in another country." Exemplar: ***"California is once again grappling with devastating wildfires, drawing international attention as these increasingly frequent climate disasters reflect similar challenges faced across Australia, Greece, and Portugal, with the United Nations now coordinating a global response to what experts call a worldwide crisis."***

#2 (Paragraph 2) Strengths: Your inclusion of personal testimonies from multiple affected residents adds authenticity and emotional depth to the article. The quotes effectively illustrate the human impact of the disaster. Weakness: Inconsistent pronoun usage → You've written "Sabrina Wiener... returned to find her neighborhood decimated" but then continued with "he said" rather than "she said." This creates confusion about the gender of your source and undermines the credibility of your reporting. Attention to detail is crucial in journalistic writing. Exemplar: ***"Sabrina Wiener, a Northern California resident, returned to find her neighbourhood decimated. 'It feels like walking through a ghost town. Everything we built is gone,' she said."***

#3 (Paragraphs 6-7) Strengths: Your conclusion effectively brings hope to a devastating situation by highlighting community resilience and offering concrete ways readers can help, which creates a call to action. Weakness: Incomplete international perspective → While mentioning "outpouring of generosity from across the country," your piece doesn't explore international aid efforts or global policy implications that would make this a truly international news story. The piece reads as though written for a Californian audience rather than an international readership. Exemplar: ***"The journey to recovery will be long and challenging, but the spirit of California's residents remains unbroken, bolstered by humanitarian aid arriving from Canada, Australia, and the European Union's Civil"***

Protection Mechanism, which has deployed specialised firefighting aircraft and personnel."

■ Your piece demonstrates strong descriptive writing and emotional appeal through personal stories, but fundamentally misses the mark on the assignment's core requirements. The prompt specifically asked for an article about an event in another country, whereas your piece is written from an American perspective about California. Additionally, you've included promotional elements like a website and contact number that aren't typically found in news articles. Your writing would benefit from reframing the perspective to position the fires as happening in "another country" relative to your supposed audience. Also, you need to expand significantly on international response efforts and global implications of these fires. Try reviewing your piece from the perspective of a British or Australian reader who would view California's fires as happening in "another country." Include specific details about how international organisations like the UN or Red Cross are responding.

Score: 41/50

Section 2:

California Bushfires

California is once again grappling with the aftermath of devastating wildfires that have swept through communities across the state. These fires have burned thousands of acres, forced the evacuation of thousands of residents, and caused extensive damage to homes, businesses, and wildlife. The emotional and physical toll is staggering, as families come to terms with the loss of their homes and the uncertainty of what lies ahead.

#1 One evacuee, Samantha Smith, shared her experience, saying, "We didn't have time to pack anything. I just grabbed my kids and ran." Sabrina Wiener, a Northern California resident, returned to find her neighbourhood decimated. "It feels like walking through a ghost town. Everything we built is gone," ~~he~~ [she] said. Despite the overwhelming destruction, residents like Edward Grade are determined to rebuild. "The loss is immense, but we're a strong community. We will rebuild, and we'll do it together," he remarked. Emma Gomez, captured the sentiments of many when she stated, "We need real solutions to prevent this from happening again."

As the fires continue to ravage parts of California, emergency responders and firefighters are working tirelessly to contain the blazes and rescue those in danger. Their efforts are nothing short of heroic, and it is vital that we continue to support them in any way we can. ~~Organizations~~ [Organisations] like the California Fire Foundation are working to provide relief to those who have lost everything. Donations to these groups not only help provide immediate assistance to displaced families, but also support the ongoing recovery efforts, including providing mental health services to those struggling with trauma.

Beyond immediate relief, the long-term recovery and rebuilding process will require significant resources. Many residents are already making plans to rebuild their homes, but the road ahead will be difficult. The fire season in California is growing longer and more unpredictable, underscoring the need for more comprehensive climate and fire management policies. Local leaders, residents, and experts are calling for greater investments in sustainable land management, fire prevention programs, and climate change mitigation efforts. As Emma Gomez wisely noted, "We need real solutions to prevent this from happening again."

The growing frequency and intensity of these wildfires are a stark reminder of the broader climate crisis we face. Rising temperatures, drought conditions, and increased wind patterns have created a perfect storm for wildfires to thrive. Addressing climate change is essential not only to prevent future fires but also to protect vulnerable communities and ecosystems. This is a time to come together, advocate for stronger environmental protections, and ensure that we are better prepared for the challenges that lie ahead.

#3 The journey to recovery will be long and challenging, but the spirit of California's residents remains unbroken. People are coming together to support one another, from offering shelter to providing food and resources. The outpouring of generosity from across the country shows that, in the face of destruction, communities can rise from the ashes.

We urge you to support these efforts in whatever way you can. Whether it's through donations to relief ~~organizations~~ [organisations], volunteering your time, or advocating for stronger fire prevention and climate policies, every action counts. The recovery process may take time, but with collective effort, we can help rebuild California and ensure that future generations are better protected.

For more information, visit www.californiawildfires.com.au Or contact 012 3456 789.

