

### Section 1:

**#1 (First Paragraph):Strengths:** Your opening paragraph effectively establishes the gravity of the situation through vivid descriptions of the aftermath. You've created a powerful emotional connection by contrasting the "peaceful moment of reflection" with the sudden horror of the attack.

**Weakness:** Limited Context → While you've described the devastating impact of the airstrike well, your introduction lacks specific details about when exactly this happened and the broader context of the conflict. For example, when you write "this week," it doesn't provide readers with a precise timeframe. The phrase "a religious service" could also be more specific about which faith community was affected.

**Exemplar:** *"A devastating Russian airstrike struck the Ukrainian city of Sumy on Tuesday, killing dozens and injuring more than 100 civilians who had gathered for an Orthodox memorial service, marking one of the deadliest attacks in the region since Russia expanded its military operations along the northeastern border last month."*

**#2 (Second Paragraph):Strengths:** Your paragraph effectively illustrates the humanitarian impact through concrete details and creates a sensory experience by describing both visual and auditory elements of the aftermath.

**Weakness:** Structural Imbalance → The paragraph attempts to cover too many different aspects: the geographical context, military analysis, emergency response, and hospital scenes. This creates a somewhat disjointed reading experience. When you write "Analysts believe this signals a new phase of Russian strategy," you introduce an important analytical point but don't fully develop it before switching to emergency response details.

**Exemplar:** *"The attack took place in Sumy Oblast, a northeastern region bordering Russia that has seen a sharp increase in air operations over the past fortnight. Military analysts believe this signals a deliberate shift in Russian strategy to intensify pressure along the 500-kilometre border zone, potentially drawing Ukrainian forces away from active front lines in the east."*

**#3 (Fourth Paragraph):Strengths:** You effectively present the international response and incorporate direct quotations from key figures, which adds authenticity to your reporting.

**Weakness:** Undeveloped Analysis → While you mention international reactions, your writing doesn't sufficiently analyse the effectiveness of previous sanctions or explain what specific new measures are being proposed. When you write "criticism is growing over the pace and effectiveness of such measures," you raise an important point but don't elaborate on who is criticising or what alternatives they suggest.

**Exemplar:** *"Critics, including former NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg, have questioned whether economic sanctions alone can deter future attacks, pointing to Russia's adaptation to previous rounds of restrictions. 'The seventh package of sanctions announced in March has shown minimal impact on Russia's defence production capacity,' Stoltenberg noted in a statement to the European Council."*

■ Your piece effectively captures the human tragedy of the event and includes important political dimensions of the conflict. However, your writing would benefit from more precise factual details and figures to strengthen its journalistic authority. You could improve by providing specific dates, more exact casualty numbers, and clearer identification of sources for claims. Additionally, your fourth paragraph introduces important international reactions but could delve deeper into the specific sanctions being proposed and their potential effectiveness. The structure could be tightened by grouping related information more deliberately—perhaps separating the humanitarian impact from military analysis and international response. Your conclusion raises important questions but could be strengthened by incorporating perspectives from Ukrainian citizens or experts on what specific international actions might actually make a difference.

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**Overall Score: 45/50**

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## **Section 2:**

A devastating Russian airstrike struck the Ukrainian city of Sumy this week, killing dozens and injuring many more as civilians gathered for a religious service. What was meant to be a peaceful moment of reflection and healing turned into horror as explosions

echoed through the streets, collapsing buildings and sending people running for cover. The targeted strike hit a civilian area, destroying homes and reducing parts of the city to rubble. Families are still searching for loved ones, digging through debris by hand. The images from the scene show crumbled neighbourhoods, blown-apart houses and grief-stricken residents in shock. For the people of Sumy, this was not just another day of war. It was a direct hit to their sense of safety and humanity. #1

The attack took place in Sumy Oblast, a region bordering Russia that has seen a sharp increase in air operations. Analysts believe this signals a new phase of Russian strategy, focusing on pressure points along the border. Emergency responders described the scene as catastrophic. Firefighters were raised on ladders to extinguish flames reaching the tops of destroyed apartment blocks, while nurses and doctors in blood-stained uniforms rushed to tend to the wounded. Hospitals were quickly overwhelmed. Crowds formed outside emergency rooms as injured civilians waited for treatment. The sounds from the aftermath were as harrowing as the visuals. Sirens, collapsing structures and cries of the injured filled the air in a chorus of chaos. #2

One image quickly spread across the world. A missile-blasted residential building with its entire front wall missing, revealing what used to be private family rooms. In front of it, a car burned so completely it was unrecognisable. That image became a symbol of the destruction. For Sumy's residents, this is more than a tragedy. It is a reminder that peace feels further away than ever. Many citizens, exhausted and angry, expressed their frustration. One man shouted, "We are not soldiers. Why are we the target?" It was later reported that the strike may have coincided with a military appreciation event for the 117th Territorial Defence Brigade. The Sumy Oblast Military Administration said Governor Volodymyr Artyukh, who has since been suspended, planned the event. This raised serious concerns about the location's vulnerability and the safety of those in attendance.

In response, world leaders issued strong condemnations. United States President Joe Biden spoke directly with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, urging international partners to take coordinated action. "Talk alone cannot end this," Biden said. The United Kingdom, Germany and Italy also condemned the attack, promising new rounds of sanctions. However, criticism is growing over the pace and effectiveness of such measures. Zelenskyy's words were direct and emotional. "Only real pressure on Russia can stop this." Standing among the ruins, acting mayor Artem Kobzar announced a day of mourning. "We will never forget this day," he said. Experts have warned that unless stronger international action is taken, attacks like this could continue or worsen. #3

For those living in Sumy, the war is not distant. It is at their doorsteps, in their streets, in their schools and hospitals. The psychological impact is severe, with residents living in constant fear of what might happen next. What was once a functioning city is now quiet and scarred. As Ukraine prepares for the next stage of this brutal war, the world faces an urgent question. Will condemnation lead to real action, or will more cities be left in ruins like Sumy?