

Writing Feedback

TERM 1 2025 | DAY 2 WRITING | 15th April

Section 1:

#1 Strengths: Your passionate tone effectively conveys emotional connection to the library. Your descriptive language creates vivid imagery of the library as a "sacred" and "precious" place. Weakness: Inconsistent formality in tone → Your opening paragraph fluctuates between formal appeal ("This letter is sent in regards of your descision") and more emotional language ("crumble the hearts of thousands"). The phrase "Would you commence the execution of a building that had captivated the hearts of many" is particularly dramatic compared to the formal purpose of a council letter. This inconsistency may undermine your credibility. Exemplar: ***I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the council's proposal to demolish our community library to make way for commercial development.***

#2 Strengths: Good use of statistics to support your argument. Including an expert quote adds authority to your position. Weakness: Overgeneralisation of statistical evidence → Your statistics ("90% of people loved the library, and of the world population? 80%") lack specificity about sample size, survey methodology, and source. The global statistic particularly seems improbable as stated. The statement that "Experienced librarian Keefe Sencen says" doesn't include credentials or context for the quote, which weakens its impact. Exemplar: ***According to our recent community survey of 500 local residents, 90% regularly use and value our library services, compared to the national average of 78% reported in the Department of Culture's 2023 Library Usage Study.***

#3 Strengths: Your sensory description of the library creates a powerful emotional appeal. The contrast between day and night scenes effectively portrays the library's timeless value. Weakness: Overreliance on emotional appeal without practical reasoning → While your descriptive paragraph about the library as a "safe haven" with "quiet streams of sunlight" and "ancient carved bookshelves" is beautifully written, it lacks concrete arguments about the library's practical value to the community. The focus on aesthetics and atmosphere without addressing functional benefits (educational resources, community programmes, etc.) limits the persuasiveness of your argument. Exemplar: ***Beyond its aesthetic value, our library serves as an educational cornerstone for the community, offering free internet access to over 200 residents daily, hosting weekly literacy programmes for children, and providing essential research resources for our local students—services that would be irreplaceable if lost.***

■ Your passion for the library shines through in your writing, which creates a strong emotional appeal. However, your piece would benefit from more structured, evidence-based arguments. Try to organise your thoughts into clear sections focusing on different aspects of the library's value—perhaps one paragraph on educational benefits, another on community services, and a third on historical significance. Also, consider addressing the financial arguments more directly, as councillors often make decisions based on budgetary concerns. You could include information about potential funding alternatives or the economic value of libraries to communities. Additionally, your piece would be more persuasive if you maintained a consistent, respectful tone throughout, avoiding overly dramatic language that might alienate council members. Try to balance emotional appeals with practical considerations that address the council's responsibilities to the entire community.

Overall Score: 44/50

Section 2:

24 Simspon St, 2113 17

Bread St, 2112 14/4/24

Dear Council,

This letter is sent in ~~regards of~~ [regard to] your ~~decision~~ [decision] to knock down our precious local library to support building some commercial building. Destroying the sacred building would not only destroy a ~~valuble~~ [valuable] structure but also crumble the hearts of thousands living in this town. Would you commence the execution of a building that had captivated the hearts of many just to build yet another polluting, common, filthy structure? No other building, no matter how luxurious, can ever compete with the local library; a ~~eataphony~~ [cacophony] of books, sleek and modern, precious and ancient. I express my anguish and represent the town in our opinion in this matter. We all share this town. Sometimes leaders have to lead by counting in on the ~~publies'~~ [public's] opinion. #1

The terrible destruction of the treasured library would tear a gaping hole in our hearts. A wound which would surely leave a scar. Knocking down this prized building will destroy an integral part of the city, just to build a common monstrosity? A survey shows that, in

this town, 90% of people loved the library, and of the world population? 80%. Far less ~~preferred~~ [preferred] some shopping centre over a precious library, and our town cares much for the library. Experienced librarian Keefe Sencen says that "Libraries are a reliable place for books – far more reliable than most commercial buildings. To knock one down would be near a crime." The public cares plenty for this building. For some, it is a place to rest and recharge after a long day. There's something wonderful about sinking into a beanbag, letting the weight of the day melt away as your mind drifts quietly elsewhere. For others, it is a haven — a space to escape the noise of the world, to breathe, to think, and to simply be. Whether it's used to unwind or to find focus, this space holds power beyond its walls: it becomes a reflection of comfort, clarity, and calm. To destroy it would ~~to~~ be to destroy a place where people turn to in need, to destroy a beloved building. #2

Some people may say that shopping centres create jobs and ~~convenient~~ [convenient] places to shop. First of all, libraries create satisfactory, engaging jobs people can actually enjoy rather than a tedious job which gives just barely enough pay to survive. For another, libraries are an easy access to books – far easier than spending hours just trying to find the right store. Unlike shopping centres, there are people to guide you through getting around the library to find exactly what you need. The library holds an average of over 1,200 people per day, providing essential resources unique to libraries. Shopping centres hold short-term ~~convenience~~ [convenience]; libraries possess wisdom lasting a thousand lifetimes.

The library is a safe haven at any time, whether ~~its~~ [it's] the day, where quiet streams of sunlight stretch through the open windows like slender fingers, or the night, where the cool rays of moonlight gently light the room. It is a place of peace, a maze of ancient carved bookshelves with books, modern and ancient, sitting there, inviting readers to come. The unique smell of the library is irreplaceable, the perfect blend of the crisp paper and smooth leather of books, and the natural musty smell of the shelves. The only sounds are the quiet sound of flipping pages – other than that, a peaceful, serene silence. The library is a unique, special building which has captivated the hearts of thousands. It has educated our minds, become a quiet sanctuary, and forged bonds stronger than ever. Would you really want to destroy this place? #3

Don't make a terrible mistake when the public has been warning you, before you are left with the legacy of a loss and regret piles up in your heart. Don't make the same error many did before you. Don't crush the hearts of the population and ~~lost~~ [lose] their trust.

You have started this. But it is not too late to stop it.

Don't be remembered as the executioner of a precious place, but revered as the saviour of a sacred sanctuary

It's not too late – yet.

Yours in concern,

Jordan Wong