TERM 1 2025 | 18th April | HOLIDAY WRITING

Section 1:

#1 (First paragraph) Strengths:

- Strong emotional opening with the three powerful one-word sentences creates immediate impact
- Clear thesis statement about the playground needing repair

Weakness: Overly dramatic tone \rightarrow The language is excessively catastrophic for a formal email to a principal, which undermines credibility. Phrases like "the world will fall upon us" and "calamity" are hyperbolic for this context and don't align with the professional tone needed for a formal request.

I am writing to express serious concerns about our playground's deteriorating condition, which has become both a safety hazard and a disappointment to the student body. Immediate renovation would greatly benefit our school community.

#2 (Second paragraph) Strengths:

- Good use of personal narrative to establish connection with the playground
- Effective descriptive language with "gleaming bars of steel" and contrasting current condition

Weakness: Insufficient detail \rightarrow Your descriptive elements lack specific examples that would strengthen your case. The paragraph mentions "many gaps" and "rusted plate" but doesn't include concrete measurements, safety standards being violated, or specific incidents that have resulted from the disrepair.

I remember fondly using the monkey bars, which once featured sturdy, properly-spaced steel bars that provided safe climbing opportunities. Unfortunately, these have now corroded so severely that 15% of the bars are missing entirely, creating dangerous gaps that have already resulted in three minor injuries this term alone.

#3 (Fourth paragraph) Strengths:

• Direct questioning engages the reader

• Creates a clear contrast between positive and negative outcomes

Weakness: Accusatory tone \rightarrow Your questions come across as confrontational rather than collaborative. Phrases like "Why do you choose to have sad children" imply negative intent on the principal's part, which is inappropriate for a formal request and could alienate the very person whose support you need.

By approving this renovation project, you would demonstrate your commitment to student wellbeing and physical activity. The improved facilities would promote positive attitudes toward school and support our physical education curriculum goals, ultimately benefiting the entire school community.

Your writing shows passion about the playground issue, but needs significant refinement to meet the formal email requirements. The current tone is too informal and accusatory for addressing a principal. While you've included some descriptive elements, your piece lacks the structured persuasive evidence requested in the prompt. The email is also significantly shorter than the required 500-600 words.

Additionally, your email is missing several key components specified in the prompt. There's no proper subject line, greeting includes "Dear:" which is incorrect format, no introduction establishing who you are, no clear action items or next steps, and no proper sign-off. Your piece also needs more specific examples of the playground problems and potential benefits of renovation.

■ To improve this piece, focus on adopting a respectful yet persuasive tone throughout. Include concrete evidence such as safety statistics, student survey results, or research on playground benefits to learning. Structure your email with a clear introduction stating who you are and why you're writing, followed by well-organized paragraphs each making a distinct point, and conclude with specific action requests. Add more descriptive language to paint a vivid picture of both the current problems and potential improvements, while using emotive language that appeals to the principal's professional priorities rather than making accusations.

Overall Score: 35/50			

Section 2:

Subject: Request for Urgent Playground Renovation Project

Dear: Mr Smith

Pain. Destruction. Devastation.

That is what every child in this school thinks of when gazing at our rickety corpse of a playground. We need to fix this calamity. If we don't, the world will fall upon us, begging you to reassemble their child's favourite plaything turned obstruction. It is absolutely vital that this change [changes]. #1

I used to walk around the barky floor of the monkey bars, waiting until I was tall enough to reach the gleaming bars of steel. Now I can reach, though I won't, the gleaming metal has corroded, leaving many gaps in the once cherished bars. There used to be a shining slide that you would slip on and slide on, now there is only the start and end of the rusted plate that once was beautiful. Only a fool would dare to touch it, even with a ten foot [ten-foot] pole. If only you could fix it. #2

Even if you were to fix it, the cost would hardly make a dent in the increased profit from the playground. Children would be happy and parents would be happy. It would help children's attention span [attention spans] in class, it would help with dispelling negative vibes from the school, in general [in general,] it would help you. If only you could fix it.

You could fix this playground within a day if you wanted to. Why do you choose to have sad children rather than happy children? Inactive children rather than active children? If only you could fix our sad little playground. #3

[Missing signature]