

Writing Feedback

DAY 7 | 22nd of April | HOLIDAY WRITING HOMEWORK

Section 1:

#1: Title and Opening Paragraph

Strengths:

- Your headline poses a thought-provoking question that creates immediate concern
- Your opening establishes a serious environmental issue with dramatic language

Weakness: Emotional exaggeration → Your opening paragraph relies too heavily on extreme claims without supporting evidence. Phrases like "hideous smogland and death" and claims about "radioactivity" require factual backing to be credible in journalism.

Exemplar: *A once-pristine Silverwater Creek now faces an environmental crisis as industrial pollution threatens both wildlife and local communities, raising urgent questions about its survival.*

#2: Historical Context Paragraph

Strengths:

- You attempt to provide historical context for the pollution problem
- You identify potential pollution sources (smokestacks, oil rigs, coal mine)

Weakness: Oversimplification → Your historical account lacks specific dates, companies involved, or regulatory context. The statement "Humans have never cared" presents an unsupported generalization rather than nuanced reporting.

Exemplar: *Since industrial development began along Silverwater Creek in the early 1990s, the watershed has endured mounting pressure from multiple pollution sources, including three manufacturing plants and nearby mining operations operating under minimal environmental oversight.*

#3: Expert Citation

Strengths:

- You attempt to include scientific evidence and expert testimony
- You provide some specific numbers regarding pollution impact

Weakness: Credibility gaps → Your expert citation lacks professional affiliation, methodology explanation, or publication reference. Claims about "mutant species" and predictions of human deaths require substantial scientific backing and precise language.

Exemplar: *According to environmental toxicologist Dr. John Macarthur of Central University's Marine Science Department, recent water quality testing revealed concerning levels of industrial waste—approximately 20 tonnes of identified contaminants that have significantly altered the creek's ecosystem, threatening both endemic species and public health.*

■ Your piece shows promising elements but needs significant development to meet journalistic standards for a feature article. The emotional tone could be effective if balanced with thoroughly researched facts, credible sources, and precise language. Consider restructuring using the PEEL format (Point, Evidence, Explanation, Link) more deliberately to strengthen your arguments. Your personal angle with Gemma Scott offers a human connection, but this needs expansion with more detailed quotes and context. Additionally, your conclusion misses the opportunity for a specific call to action—what exactly should readers do to help? Focus on providing balanced perspectives from different stakeholders including government officials, company representatives, and local conservation groups. Finally, revise casual expressions like "quite interesting" and replace them with more professional journalistic language.

Overall Score: 37/50

Section 2:

Will local lake perish under strain of pollution?

#1: After humans have dared to encroach on the Silverwater ~~lake~~ [Creek] with their hands full of pollution, this once pristine channel of water has transformed into a hideous smogland and death. People have been evacuated for their own safety simply from the radioactivity and potency of the lake.

#2: 30 years ago, humans found the banks of the Silverwater creek. They immediately started placing huge smokestacks all around it, oil rigs behind it, even a coal mine under it. Humans have never cared about the Silverwater creek. Now, they are paying for it.

24 ~~year-old~~ [year-old] Gemma Scott has always loved Silverwater ~~lake~~ [Creek], ever since she was a baby her family would go down to the bank and sit and watch the ducks play. She has always kept a photo of herself standing in front of the ducks, now, that is all that she can use to remember the beautiful lake of her childhood. When questioned, her only response was ~~that~~, [,] "I just want the lake to be restored to its former glory" ~~she stated~~. [she stated.]

#3: Scientists have ~~figured-out~~ [determined] that there is approximately 20 ~~tons~~ [tonnes] of toxic waste currently absorbed into the river, 12 new mutant species of fish, and around 1200 sea creatures killed and counting. ~~Prized~~ [Renowned] scientist John ~~Macarthur~~ [Macarthur] reports that they expect ~~for~~ the lake to kill 20 humans by the end of 2025. Something that is quite interesting, is that the lake now holds the ~~guinness~~ [Guinness] world record for "stinkiest place ever." Just beating the ~~african~~ [African] flower which smells like rotten flesh.

All ~~this-that~~ [of what] I have mentioned could have been prevented if we humans had simply chosen to fight for nature instead of against it. We could be a thriving society, though we ~~had~~ [have chosen] to take dominance.

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