

Writing Feedback

DAY 9 | 24th of April | HOLIDAY WRITING HOMEWORK

Section 1:

Part #1

Strengths:

- Your compelling narrative about the transformation of Ridgewood effectively illustrates the issue with vivid imagery of starlit skies now covered by haze.
- The statistical evidence (250% increase in brightness) adds credibility to your argument.

Weakness: Limited scope of impact → While you mention health effects like respiratory issues and eco-anxiety, your exploration lacks depth regarding the broader societal implications. For instance, in your article, when discussing Elena Ramirez's experience: "Last season I had to start using an inhaler, and it wasn't asthma—but the air quality here just isn't what it used to be," you could expand on how this affects community engagement, school attendance, or sports participation rates.

Exemplar: *"Not only has Elena been forced to rely on an inhaler during cross-country, but our community has witnessed a 35% drop in outdoor sports participation as respiratory issues multiply, creating a generation disconnected from the outdoor spaces that once defined Ridgewood's character."*

Part #2

Strengths:

- Your speech effectively employs emotional appeal through imagery of stars as "a river of diamonds" to create nostalgia.
- You build credibility by incorporating expert opinions from Dr. Amelia Feng and Dr. Naomi Patel.

Weakness: Underdeveloped solutions framework → Your proposed solutions remain general rather than specific and actionable. In your letter, you mention "implementing strategies such as reducing unnecessary outdoor lighting, enforcing better regulations on industrial emissions," but don't provide concrete steps. The audience might be left

wondering what exactly they should advocate for or what specific policies would make a difference.

Exemplar: *"I propose we follow the Dark Sky Community guidelines by implementing a town-wide ordinance requiring downward-facing, motion-sensor lighting on all public buildings by January, alongside establishing a monthly air quality monitoring system with results published prominently on our town website."*

Part #3

Strengths:

- Your email effectively establishes urgency through powerful language and tone appropriate for environmental advocacy groups.
- Your emotional appeal showing the contrast between past and present environmental conditions creates impact.

Weakness: Inconsistent audience adaptation → While you've identified different audiences for each format, your language and technical complexity remain relatively uniform across all four. For example, your article for newspaper readers uses terminology like "PM2.5 particles" which might be appropriate, but similar technical language appears in other formats. Each format should more distinctly reflect its audience in vocabulary, complexity and focus.

Exemplar: *"For our schoolchildren, breathing has become challenging as tiny pollution particles (smaller than the width of a human hair) fill their lungs during playtime, causing one in five teenagers to struggle with basic activities like running or even sitting through lessons without discomfort."*

■ Your piece demonstrates strong command of persuasive techniques like emotional appeals and expert testimony. However, you could strengthen your writing by adding more concrete data to support your claims about health impacts. Additionally, while you've created four distinct formats, each would benefit from more specific formatting conventions—your email could include a stronger call-to-action in bullet points, while your speech might incorporate more rhetorical questions to engage the audience. You might also consider developing a more structured argument progression in your article, perhaps following a problem-cause-solution framework with clearer subheadings. Your persuasive appeals would be more effective if you balanced emotional appeals with more logical appeals throughout the letter format. Finally, the adaptation between formats

could be more pronounced through varied sentence length and complexity based on the intended audience.

Overall Score: 46/50

Section 2:

Letter Format

Dear Scholarly I hope this letter finds you well. I would like to bring to your attention a pressing issue that is not only affecting our beautiful town of Ridgewood but also the health and well-being of its residents—the simultaneous threats of light and air pollution. When older residents speak fondly of the Milky Way that once adorned our night sky, it serves as a poignant reminder of what we have lost. I urge you to consider the urgent need for action to reclaim our skies and improve our community's air quality.

Ridgewood has transformed significantly over the years, transitioning from a tranquil suburban enclave to one increasingly masked by the glow of artificial lights and veiled in smog. According to a 2023 report by the National ~~Centres~~ [Centres] for Environmental Information, our night sky has brightened by an alarming 250% over the past five decades, hiding stars that should still be visible to the naked eye. The loss of this celestial wonder is not merely an aesthetic issue; it is a reflection of deep environmental harm. #1

I would like to highlight the significant health effects of our declining air quality. The National Lung Association's recent findings indicate that one in five teens in suburban communities, including ours, now report respiratory issues. Our air quality index regularly teeters into the "unhealthy for sensitive groups" range, exacerbated by rising vehicle traffic and nearby industrial emissions. Young students, such as Elena Ramirez, voice their struggles; her reliance on an inhaler this cross-country season exemplifies the very real implications of our compromised environment.

Moreover, according to Dr. Naomi Patel, a psychologist ~~specializing~~ [specialising] in eco-anxiety, our disconnection from nature—no longer able to see the stars—leads to feelings of isolation and heightened anxiety among adolescents. Losing our connection to

the night sky is about more than visibility; it is about losing a crucial source of grounding and psychological comfort.

But there is hope. Light and air pollution are reversible. By implementing strategies such as reducing unnecessary outdoor lighting, enforcing better regulations on industrial emissions, and advocating for cleaner transportation options, we can reclaim the sky for ourselves and future generations. I encourage you, as community leaders, to advocate for initiatives aimed at improving our environmental integrity, engaging residents in awareness campaigns, and promoting community-driven actions to protect our natural assets.

Imagine the day when children can once again lie on the grass and gaze up at a sky adorned with bright stars instead of a hazy, blinding glow. Envision a community where clean air fosters healthier lives, free from the constraint of respiratory difficulty. The stars have not vanished; they are simply waiting to be revealed.

Please consider these pressing matters and take action. Our health, our children, and our shared connection to the sky depend on it.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely, Ryan Khov

Speech Format

Audience: Community Members and Local School Board at a Town Hall Meeting

Good evening, everyone. Thank you all for gathering tonight. I stand before you as a concerned member of our Ridgewood community to address an issue that not only affects our quality of life but also threatens our very connection to nature—the growing plight of light and air pollution.

Decades ago, Ridgewood's night sky was a canvas, painted with stars, where the Milky Way stretched across the horizon like a river of diamonds, breathtaking and inspiring. Today, that same sky is hidden beneath a yellow haze, a mere shell of its former glory. We host stargazing events, but instead of a dazzling display of constellations, we are met with the faint gleam of Venus, nearly buried under the relentless glow of streetlights and shopping centres [centres]. #2

But this isn't merely a lament for days gone by; this is a clarion call for action. The degradation of our night skies ~~symbolizes~~ [symbolises] a broader environmental crisis—light and air pollution—working in concert to strip our community of its natural beauty and harming our health.

As Dr. Amelia Feng from the local university poignantly states, excessive artificial light disrupts natural ecosystems, affecting migratory patterns and contributing to declines in nocturnal insects. These changes are not abstract; they have concrete consequences—affecting our sleep cycles and overall health. Our bodies rely on natural darkness, yet many of us don't ~~recognize~~ [recognise] the impaired rhythms we experience due to artificial lighting. Imagine how many of our children—our future—face sleepless nights due to imbalanced circadian rhythms.

On top of that, our air quality has reached alarming levels. Our town's air quality index frequently falls into the "unhealthy for sensitive groups" zone, particularly in summer months. More vehicle traffic and nearby industrial activity are exacerbating this condition, and I can attest to hearing stories like Elena Ramirez's in our own community—young people suffering from respiratory distress. Instead of playing sports, they now rely on inhalers just to breathe.

What's more troubling is not just the physical toll but the psychological one. Dr. Naomi Patel explains that the loss of a starry sky leads to disconnection and eco-anxiety, particularly in our youth. We cannot forget that these children are navigating difficult terrains in school, identity, and the pressures of adolescence. Take a moment to reflect on that; our natural world offers solace, allowing us to ground ourselves amid chaos, but this solace is slipping away.

However, there is hope. Light and air pollution are reversible. The first step is awareness—educating ourselves and advocating for our community. Let us lead by turning down unnecessary outdoor lighting. By pushing for cleaner transportation options and stricter regulations on industrial emissions, we can reclaim our precious night skies and restore our air quality.

Imagine a future where our children can once again gaze at a brilliant Milky Way, where every breath of fresh air ignites a sense of clarity, health, and belonging. The stars haven't disappeared; they remain obscured, waiting for us to take action.

Now is the time for us to come together as a community. Let's not wait for change to come from the sky; let's be the architects of that change.

Thank you.

Email Format

Audience: Local Environmental Advocacy Groups

Subject: Urgent Action Needed: Combatting Light and Air Pollution in Ridgewood

Dear Scholarly,

I hope this message finds you well. I'm reaching out to discuss an urgent issue plaguing our community—light and air pollution—and to rally your support for actionable solutions that could transform Ridgewood.

As many of you know, generations past were blessed with night skies studded with stars, where the Milky Way sparkled like a flowing river of light. Unfortunately, our town has experienced a dramatic transformation, with our skies now obscured by a pervasive yellow haze and our air thick with pollution. During a recent astronomy club event, we barely caught a glimpse of Venus, overwhelmed by the artificial glow from streetlights and the glowing signs of nearby shopping centres [centres].

This isn't just a nostalgic remembrance of what was—it's a call to recognize [recognise] the pressing environmental crisis we're facing today. Studies reveal that light pollution in suburban areas like ours has surged by an astonishing 250% over the last fifty years. This deterioration is not only erasing the beauty of our night sky but is also impacting our health and the local ecosystem. #3

Health implications abound. More recent data published by the American Lung Association shows that one in five teenagers now experiences respiratory issues, and you would be hard-pressed to find a student in Ridgewood who isn't struggling with some form of breathing difficulty. Elena Ramirez, a local cross-country runner, was strong and healthy before her conditioning was disrupted by poor air quality. Her reliance on an inhaler—a stark reminder of how compromised our environment has become—illustrates the grave reality of air pollution.

The toll extends beyond physical health into the realm of mental health. Dr. Naomi Patel, an expert in eco-anxiety, highlights how our disconnection from nature contributes to rising levels of stress and isolation, particularly among adolescents. This loss of the night sky is not a simple matter; it fundamentally affects our communities' well-being.

Fortunately, we possess the ability to reclaim our environment. Light and air pollution are reversible through mindful initiatives. We must work together to advocate for reducing outdoor lighting, implementing stricter industry regulations, and promoting public awareness campaigns.

Imagine that transformative moment when our children can lie on the grass and gaze up at a breathtaking starlit sky or breathe deeply without the weight of pollution in their lungs. Those stars are still there, waiting for us to acknowledge them.

I implore each of you to consider engaging with local policymakers, educating residents, and calling for collective action. Together, we can advocate for the future of Ridgewood and invest in the health and hope of generations to come.

Looking forward to your thoughts on how we can take meaningful action.

Best, Ryan Khov

Article Format

Audience: Local Newspaper Readers

The Sky We Lost: Light and Air Pollution Dim the Future of Our Community

On a clear night decades ago, older residents of Ridgewood fondly recall a magnificent view—the Milky Way stretching across the sky like a river of diamonds, bright, infinite, and awe-inspiring. Today, that same sky is pale and empty, obscured by a relentless dome of artificial light that dims even the brightest stars. It's a scenario many of us have witnessed firsthand, and during a recent stargazing event on the school's rooftop, our astronomy club was scarcely able to see anything beyond a faint pinprick of Venus amidst the crowded glow of streetlights and bustling traffic below.

This isn't just about nostalgia for what once was; it's about ~~recognizing~~ [recognising] the growing environmental crisis affecting our community. Light and air pollution are not separate issues; they converge to create a dual threat that erodes both our natural beauty and the health of our residents. Over the years, and without ~~realizing~~ [realising] it, Ridgewood has transformed from a serene rural-suburban town into one flickering under endless artificial light and guarded by smog that lingers even when the wind shifts.

The National ~~Centres~~ [Centres] for Environmental Information reported in 2023 that the night sky in suburban regions is now 250% brighter than it was fifty years ago, a statistic

that reveals how starkly our environment has changed. Beyond aesthetics, this increase in light pollution disrupts ecosystems crucial to balance in our world. Animals rely on darkness for their natural rhythms—hunting, breeding, and feeding—yet artificial light at night (ALAN) confuses migratory patterns and disrupts essential processes. Dr. Amelia Feng, an environmental scientist, ~~emphasizes~~ [emphasises] that the effects are broad, citing declines in nocturnal insects and damaging implications for plant life and health.

The consequences of air pollution are similarly concerning. Ridgewood's air quality index (AQI) is frequently ~~categorized~~ [categorised] as "moderate" to "unhealthy for sensitive groups," particularly during warmer months. Factors such as increased vehicular traffic, suburban development, and industrial activity contribute to this decline. Invisible PM2.5 particles—tiny, inhalable fragments produced by various types of combustion—penetrate deep into the lungs and bloodstream, leading to long-term respiratory and cardiovascular health issues for those exposed.

Elena Ramirez, a sophomore involved in cross-country, shares her own experience: "Last season I had to start using an inhaler, and it wasn't asthma—but the air quality here just isn't what it used to be." Such stories are becoming all too common, a recent survey from the American Lung Association revealing that one in five teenagers in suburban communities now reports experiencing respiratory issues. Increasingly, our young people struggle with basic challenges like exercise, concentration, and restful sleep. Teachers are noticing higher numbers of students visiting the nurse with complaints of headaches and fatigue, which correlate with pollution spikes.

Perhaps most worryingly, losing access to a clear, starry sky impacts our mental health, creating a psychological toll that is challenging to quantify. "There's a real grief that comes with this kind of loss," explains Dr. Naomi Patel, a psychologist ~~specializing~~ [specialising] in eco-anxiety. The loss of connection to the night sky generates feelings of disconnection—spiritually and emotionally—especially among adolescents navigating the turbulent waters of identity and anxiety.

Ultimately, light and air pollution are reversible. The stars have not vanished; they are cloaked behind the veil we've constructed. We must act. Educating ourselves and advocating for change can guide our community toward reclaiming a clear sky and clean air for generations to come. Imagine not just the aesthetic beauty of a starlit night, but the fundamental health benefits of breathing fresh air, fostering connections, and nurturing grounded, confident youth.

Let's choose a future where we can once again look skyward and behold the wonders of the cosmos. The road to reclaiming Ridgewood's environmental integrity begins with us—one action, one voice at a time.