

# Writing Feedback

## DAY 4 | 24th of April | HOLIDAY WRITING HOMEWORK

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### Section 1:

#### #1: A Disaster of Unprecedented Scale paragraph

##### Strengths:

- Your vivid description of the tsunami's impact creates a clear mental image for readers.
- You effectively contextualise the disaster by mentioning its global reach to countries like Japan and Chile.

**Weakness:** Limited technical detail → While you mention the eruption was "one of the largest recorded in decades," your piece would benefit from more specific comparisons or scientific context. You write "The eruption also spewed massive amounts of ash," but this could be quantified to give readers a better understanding of the scale.

**Exemplar:** *"The underwater volcanic eruption, registering as a VEI-5 event on the Volcanic Explosivity Index, sent tsunami waves up to 1 metre high crashing onto Tonga's shores, making it one of the most powerful eruptions of the 21st century."*

#### #2: Impact on Residents paragraph

##### Strengths:

- Your inclusion of a quotation from a resident adds a human element to the story.
- You effectively highlight both immediate and long-term challenges facing Tongans.

**Weakness:** Generic humanitarian description → The paragraph relies on somewhat predictable descriptions of disaster aftermath. Phrases like "Villages have been obliterated" and "struggling to rebuild their lives" are common in disaster reporting. More specific details about unique cultural impacts or particular communities would strengthen this section.

**Exemplar:** *"In Kanokupolu village on the western coast, where traditional mat weaving sustains many families economically, the ash has contaminated the pandanus plants used in this craft, threatening both cultural heritage and livelihoods."*

### #3: Statistics Highlight the Impact section

#### Strengths:

- The comparison to a "small nuclear bomb" effectively communicates the eruption's power.
- The bullet-point format makes the statistics easily digestible for readers.

**Weakness:** Underdeveloped statistical presentation → The statistics section feels somewhat disconnected from the narrative and lacks adequate context. The claim that "80% of Tonga's population has been directly affected" needs further explanation about what "directly affected" means in this context.

**Exemplar:** *"– More than 80% of Tonga's population (approximately 84,000 people) has been directly affected by the disaster, including 36,000 children who have lost access to education facilities and 50,000 residents now lacking reliable drinking water."*

■ Your news article demonstrates solid journalistic structure with a clear introduction, development of the crisis, and discussion of international response. However, your piece would benefit from greater depth in exploring the volcanic eruption's unique aspects. Consider adding more specific details about Tonga's cultural and economic recovery challenges. You might also strengthen your article by including more diverse perspectives—perhaps from aid workers, scientists studying the eruption, or government officials coordinating recovery efforts. Additionally, your conclusion could explore concrete actions readers might take to help with relief efforts rather than merely stating the need for support. The "Global Efforts" section could be expanded to detail specific aid amounts pledged by different countries to give readers a clearer picture of the international response.

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**Overall Score: 45/50**

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## Section 2:

The Sydney Times

### Tsunami Ravages Tonga: A Global Appeal for Aid

Saturday, January 22, 2022

The small Pacific island nation of Tonga was plunged into turmoil last week when a tsunami, triggered by the eruption of the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai volcano, swept through the region. The disaster has left the nation reeling, as families mourn their losses and infrastructure lies in ruin.

**#1: A Disaster of Unprecedented Scale** The underwater volcanic eruption, one of the largest recorded in decades, sent tsunami waves up to 1 ~~meter~~ [metre] high crashing onto Tonga's shores. The ripple effects were felt across the Pacific and beyond—waves were observed in nations as distant as Japan and Chile. Tonga's capital, Nuku'alofa, suffered significant damage, with homes and public buildings inundated by water and debris.

The eruption also spewed massive amounts of ash into the atmosphere, contaminating water sources and hampering relief efforts. The death toll in Tonga stands at three, but the psychological and economic toll is incalculable.

**#2: Impact on Residents** Thousands of Tongans are struggling to rebuild their lives. Villages have been obliterated, leaving families without shelter or access to basic necessities like food and clean water. The ashfall has ruined crops, posing a long-term challenge to food security. Survivors speak of the terrifying moments when the waves hit, and their desperate scramble to reach higher ground.

"We've lost everything," said one resident, who is now living in a makeshift shelter. "We're grateful to be alive, but the road ahead looks bleak."

**Global Efforts** International aid has poured into Tonga in an effort to alleviate the suffering. Australia and New Zealand have spearheaded relief operations, deploying naval ships loaded with emergency supplies. UNICEF and other global ~~organizations~~ [organisations] are on the ground, providing medical support and addressing urgent needs.

**Countries worldwide have pledged financial aid and resources, but experts warn that recovery will be a long and arduous process. Additionally, the disaster has reignited discussions about climate resilience and the vulnerability of island nations to natural disasters.**

**#3: Statistics Highlight the Impact– The tsunami waves were recorded in more than 20 countries.– More than 80% of Tonga's population has been directly affected by the disaster.– The eruption released an estimated 0.5 megatons of TNT energy—comparable to a small nuclear bomb.**

**A Plea for UnityAs Tonga grapples with the aftermath, the global community is reminded of the importance of solidarity in the face of tragedy. The people of Tonga remain resilient, but their path to recovery requires sustained international support.**

**This disaster, while devastating, has underscored the shared vulnerability of humanity to nature's wrath and the pressing need for collaboration to protect our planet.**