

Writing Feedback

DAY 7 | 22nd of April | HOLIDAY WRITING HOMEWORK

#1 - Introduction (A Silent Crisis Unfolds)

Strengths:

- Your opening paragraph creates a stark contrast between Silverwater Creek's past and present, effectively capturing attention.
- Your use of sensory details like "murky waters and pungent odour" helps readers visualize the environmental degradation.

Weakness: Lack of Focus in Hook → Your introduction contains multiple hooks rather than one compelling statement, which dilutes its impact. In the first few sentences, you jump between different time periods and aspects of the creek without establishing a clear narrative focus. For example, "There was once a gleaming lake populated by colourful fish, now a polluted dull river" followed by "Silverwater used to be a holiday destination, now a forgotten landmark" creates a disjointed opening.

Exemplar: *The pristine waters of Silverwater Creek, once teeming with colourful fish and cherished by generations of families, now sit stagnant and foul—a stark reminder of our environmental negligence that demands immediate attention.*

#2 - The Problem Section

Strengths:

- Your incorporation of specific data (40% increase in lead concentrations, doubled mercury levels) strengthens your argument.
- You've effectively cited a credible source (University of Nature Protection) to build ethos.

Weakness: Underdeveloped PEEL Structure → While you mention various sources of pollution, you haven't fully developed the explanation and evidence components of PEEL. The paragraph introduces several pollutants and sources but doesn't clearly connect them to specific impacts or elaborate on the evidence. For instance, you mention "decline of amphibians and destruction of habitats" without providing specific examples or explaining the mechanism of how these pollutants cause these effects.

Exemplar: *Heavy metals from industrial waste have devastated local ecosystems, with UNP research showing that the 40% increase in lead concentrations has directly corresponded with a 65% decline in native amphibian populations over the past five years.*

#3 - A Call for Action Section

Strengths:

- You've included expert opinion from Dr. Williams to add credibility to your proposed solutions.
- You outline multiple approaches to address the problem, showing the complexity of the issue.

Weakness: Vague Action Steps → Your call to action lacks specific, actionable details that would empower readers to participate in the solution. You mention "stricter regulations," "better waste management," and "community-driven clean-up initiatives" without providing concrete examples or steps. The paragraph doesn't clearly explain how readers can personally contribute to these solutions beyond visiting a website.

Exemplar: *Join our monthly creek clean-up events on the first Saturday of each month, where volunteers have already removed over 500 kg of plastic waste this year, or support our petition for the implementation of waste filtration systems at the three main industrial discharge points along Silverwater Creek.*

■ Your feature article effectively highlights the Silverwater Creek pollution issue, but could benefit from more focused development of ideas. The contrast between past and present creates emotional appeal, though your PEEL paragraphs need stronger connections between points, evidence, and explanations. Also, your article would be more compelling with more vivid descriptive language throughout rather than primarily in the introduction. You could improve the persuasive elements by providing more specific action steps in your conclusion rather than general suggestions. Additionally, try to maintain consistent tone throughout—some sections feel more formal while others are conversational. Reorganizing your content to more clearly address causes, impacts, and solutions would strengthen your argument's flow and impact.

Overall Score: 42/50

Section 2:

Surviving with Silverwater: A Cry for Clean Water

#1 - A Silent Crisis Unfolds There was once a gleaming lake populated by colourful fish, now a polluted dull river. Silverwater used to be a holiday destination, now a forgotten landmark. ~~It's~~ [Its] once ecosystem, now dead from pollutants. We need to act fast, before Silverwater Creek perishes. It used to flow with pristine clarity, a haven for local wildlife and a cherished stop for families and friends. Today, it tells a different story – a tale of neglect and pollution that threatens ~~its every~~ [its very] existence. As we stand on its banks, the murky waters and pungent odour serve as a ~~starkly~~ [stark] reminder of the environmental crisis at our doorstep.

The Reality Silverwater Creek's problem is not just an environmental issue; it is a community crisis. Recent studies have shown alarming levels of pollutants, including sewage water and industrial waste. According to Professor Alexis Carter, head of the Environmental Institute of Australia, "The pollution levels in Silverwater Creek have reached a critical point. If immediate action is not taken, we will risk losing this vital ecosystem forever." Even small acts of plastic waste reduction or using biodegradable products can help us get one step further to helping Silverwater Creek.

#2 - The Problem Data from the University of Nature Protection (UNP) reveals that the creek's water quality has deteriorated significantly, over the last two decades. The UNP discovered that levels of heavy metals and toxic chemicals have surpassed safe limits, with specific lead concentrations increasing by 40%, and mercury levels doubling. These contaminants originate from various sources, including nearby factories, agricultural runoff and untreated sewage. The accumulation of these pollutants disrupts the natural balance of the ecosystem, leading to the decline of amphibians and destruction of habitats. Addressing the pollution in Silverwater Creek is not about preserving the environment but safeguarding the health and safety of our community.

The Impact The impact of Silverwater Creek's pollution extends way beyond the environment, affecting the local neighbourhood's quality of life. A survey conducted by

the town mayor, found that residents living near the creek reported higher incidences of respiratory problems and skin conditions. Additionally, the once-thriving recreational activities like fishing and canoeing, have come to a halt due to safety concerns. Over 44% of residents expressed concern about the health risks associated with Silverwater Creek. The presence of harmful pollutants in the water not only endangers wildlife but also poses significant health concerns. The community's connection to the creek has been ~~served~~ [severed], leading to a loss of cultural and recreational value.

Community Voices While the scientific data paints a grim picture, the voices of the community add a personal dimension to the severe crisis. John Mathews, a lifelong resident recalls, "I used to take my kids fishing here every Saturday. Now, I never dare let them near the water. It's heartbreaking." His sentimental anecdote is echoed by many who have witnessed the creek's decline firsthand. Sarah Thompson, a local teacher shares her concerns. "We used to come here for school field trips to learn about the world's ecosystem, but now we have to find a new alternative because it's too dangerous. This problem is both a loss to their education and our community."

#3 - A Call for Action The situation at Silverwater Creek is dire, but it's not beyond repair. Experts like Dr. Williams advocate for a multi-faceted approach to tackle the pollution. "We need stricter regulations on industrial waste disposal, a better waste management, and community-driven clean-up initiatives." she emphasises. "The local government must prioritize funding for environmental restoration projects and enforce stringent penalties for polluters."

The Role of Education Education plays a vital role in addressing the pollution crisis at Silverwater Creek. By incorporating environmental studies into school curriculums and organising community workshops, we can raise awareness about the importance of preserving our natural resources. Empowering the younger generation with knowledge and tools to protect the environment ensures that the efforts to save Silverwater Creek will continue for years to come.

A Vision for the Future Imagine a future where Silverwater Creek is restored to its former glory-a vibrant atmosphere teeming with life, a safe haven for generations to enjoy. This insight is not a distant dream, but a tangible goal that requires collective effort. Community clean-up events, educational programs and sustainable practices can pave a [the] way for a cleaner, healthier creek.

Join the movement The fight to save Silverwater Creek is a fight for our environment, our health and our community. It is a call to action for every resident to take responsibility

and contribute to the solution. By working together, we can turn the tide and ensure that Silverwater Creek flows clean and clear once more. Join us in this crucial endeavour, because every hand counts. To get involved in the efforts to restore Silverwater Creek, visit: <https://www.helpthecreekwithus.com.au> and sign up for upcoming clean-up events. Your participation can make a significant difference in preserving this precious natural resource, for generations to come.