

Writing Feedback

DAY 9 | 24th of April | HOLIDAY WRITING HOMEWORK

Section 1:

#1: First paragraph Strengths: Your opening creates a sense of urgency through rhythmic repetition and powerful declarative statements. The escalating timeline ("not tomorrow, not tonight, but now!") effectively builds momentum. Weakness: Excessive emotionality → Your language choices like "malefic poison," "inimical pollution," and "terminated" feel overblown and melodramatic, potentially undermining your credibility with a serious audience. Specific environmental concerns remain vague rather than concrete. Exemplar: *We cannot delay action any longer. Each day that passes allows more harmful contaminants to pollute our waterway, threatening our children's future. The time to act is now!*

#2: Second paragraph Strengths: You create a vivid sensory experience through detailed imagery, allowing readers to visualize the polluted river. The contrast between what should be and what is creates emotional impact. Weakness: Mixed metaphors → Your metaphorical language becomes confused with phrases like "ethereal chains around your brain" and "roots further into the tapestry of muck," which distract from rather than enhance your message. The shift between descriptive and accusatory tones ("Each of us has contributed") feels abrupt. Exemplar: *Imagine approaching our community river to find not clear flowing water, but a collection of plastic waste with an oily film coating the surface. Where once wildlife thrived, now bottles, bags and broken fragments litter the banks – a sobering reality we must confront.*

#3: Fifth paragraph Strengths: You effectively address and counter potential opposing arguments, demonstrating that you've considered different perspectives. Your repetitive structure ("Some will say... I say") creates powerful emphasis. Weakness: Lack of specificity → While you raise important counter-arguments, you don't provide concrete evidence or specific solutions. Your rebuttals remain abstract rather than offering tangible alternatives or examples of how clean water could create jobs. Exemplar: *Critics argue we can't afford environmental remediation, but the economic cost of contaminated water far exceeds cleanup expenses. They worry about job losses, but river restoration projects in similar communities have created dozens of new positions in conservation and eco-tourism.*

■ Your speech demonstrates passion and emotional appeal, but would benefit from greater balance between dramatic language and factual content. Your vivid descriptions of environmental damage capture attention effectively, but could be complemented by specific data points about the pollution's extent or health impacts. Additionally, while you mention actions like signing a petition and attending a council meeting, you could strengthen your call to action by outlining what those actions might achieve or providing examples of successful community-led environmental initiatives. Also, consider incorporating more personal stories beyond the brief mention of your daughter's science project – these connections help audiences relate to abstract environmental issues. The speech would also benefit from clearer organisation with distinct sections addressing the problem, its causes, impacts, and solutions.

Overall Score: 43/50

Section 2:

We cannot wait another day! Every hour that passes without action, more ~~malefic~~ [harmful] poison seeps into our beloved waterway. Our children's future is being ~~terminated~~ [threatened] by the ~~inimical~~ [damaging] pollution. We start not tomorrow, not tonight, but now!

#1 Envision walking towards our community river, and instead of seeing pristine water, you see a graveyard of plastic waste. As you get closer you notice a toxic sheen of ~~spiteful~~ [noxious] oils. ~~You can feel the ethereal chains around your brain tighten as you gaze as mounds of waste mercilessly jostle naive roots further into the tapestry of muck.~~ [You feel a sense of despair as you observe mounds of waste pushing against vulnerable plant roots embedded in the polluted mud.] Bottles, bags, and broken fragments as far as the eye can see. This isn't some dystopian future ~~this~~ [; this] is our reality right now! Each of us in this room has contributed to this crisis. Each disposable coffee cup, each plastic grocery bag, each single-use water bottle has added to the mountain of waste that is choking our environment and poisoning our wildlife. The tranquil ~~playlist~~ [soundscape] of gushing water and birds chirping has been replaced by an eerie silence which is only disturbed by the ~~much to~~ [all too] occasional bleak thud of yet another piece of pollution adding to the ~~monstrosity~~ [accumulation] of waste. But together, we can change this!

Together, we can say NO to plastic that will outlive our grandchildren. Together, we can choose reusable alternatives. Together, we can pressure businesses and government to prioritise our planet over profit and convenience.

I feel rage when I think about the corporate executives who make decisions from sterile boardrooms miles away from the communities they poison. I feel heartbreak when I see children reading 'No Swimming' signs where their parents once played. And I feel shame that we have allowed this to happen on our watch.

I still remember when my own daughter collected water samples from Parkside Creek for her science project three years ago. Today, she would need hazardous material protection to conduct the same study.

#3 Some will say we can't afford to fix this problem. I say we can't afford NOT to. Some will say jobs might be lost. I say what about the jobs that clean water would create? Some say it's too late. I say it's never too late to do what's right.

Could we afford to wait another month if your family relied on Parkside Creek water?
NO!!

#2 Today, we must commit to action, not just words. Today, we must stand together against environmental injustice. Today, we begin the work of healing our community's lifeblood—its water. Join me! Sign the petition, attend the council meeting on Thursday, and let your voice become a mighty current that cannot be ignored!