

Section 1:

#1 (First paragraph) Strengths: Your personal anecdote about the Great Barrier Reef creates an emotional connection with the audience. Your use of sensory language effectively contrasts expectations versus reality. Weakness: Overreliance on emotional appeal without factual context. → You've created a powerful opening scenario, but it lacks specific details about when this occurred or how widespread the problem is. The phrase "this is the effects of climate change" would be more impactful if you included brief statistics about coral bleaching rates or referenced scientific studies on the Great Barrier Reef's condition. Exemplar: ***Picture this: When my family and I visited Queensland's Great Barrier Reef last summer, we expected vibrant corals teeming with marine life. Instead, we witnessed ghostly white bleached coral stretching across 60% of what was once called "the largest living structure on Earth" - a devastating consequence of rising sea temperatures.***

#2 (Second paragraph) Strengths: You've provided a clear, accessible explanation of climate change and the greenhouse effect for your audience. Your inclusion of deforestation as a compounding factor shows good understanding of interconnected environmental issues. Weakness: Simplified causation. → Your explanation of climate change focuses solely on fossil fuels and deforestation without acknowledging other contributing factors or the complexity of the issue. The phrase "climate change isn't just some random change in the weather" could be strengthened by briefly mentioning how it differs from natural weather patterns or climate cycles to provide more depth to your argument. Exemplar: ***Climate change represents a fundamental disruption to Earth's delicate atmospheric balance, primarily caused by human activities. When we burn fossil fuels like coal or petrol for our cars and factories, we release carbon dioxide that forms a heat-trapping blanket around our planet – a process accelerated by the clearing of carbon-absorbing forests at a rate of 10 million hectares annually.***

#3 (Third paragraph) Strengths: Your inclusion of global examples demonstrates climate change as a worldwide issue. The quotation from an authority figure adds credibility to your argument. Weakness: Unbalanced evidence presentation. → Your examples focus heavily on dramatic disaster scenarios without contextualising them within broader climate patterns. The quotation from "Professor James" lacks specificity about which

research department he represents, when he made this statement, and the specific context of the 12,000 deaths mentioned. This vagueness potentially weakens what could be powerful supporting evidence. Exemplar: *Climate change's fingerprints are increasingly evident across every continent. While Australia battles coral bleaching and intensifying bushfires, Bangladesh has lost 17% of its land mass to rising seas since 1990, forcing 18 million climate refugees to relocate. According to Professor Sarah James from Oxford University's Climate Research Department, "These aren't isolated incidents but interconnected consequences of our warming planet."*

■ Your speech demonstrates passion and urgency about climate change, which gives it emotional power. However, you could strengthen your argument by balancing emotional appeals with more specific evidence. Additionally, while you've identified the problem clearly, your solutions section could benefit from more concrete, actionable steps beyond general suggestions. The AIDA structure (Attention, Interest, Desire, Action) is present but could be more deliberately developed, particularly in building desire before calling for action. Your transitions between paragraphs work well, but within paragraphs, ideas sometimes jump without clear connections. Consider using more varied rhetorical devices—while you use rhetorical questions and emotional appeals effectively, adding metaphors, alliteration, or parallel structure would enrich your speech. Also, your sensory descriptions are strong in the opening but could be incorporated throughout to maintain vivid imagery that keeps your audience engaged.

Score: 44/50

Section 2:

Picture this: You and your family flew all the way to Queensland to see the Great Barrier Reef, expecting to see vibrant corals and marine animals under a warm, crystal-clear sea shimmering in the sunlight, only to arrive and see murky waters and bleached coral. Instead of a thriving ecosystem, corals die and many sea animals lose their habitats, leaving the once flourishing reef barren and lifeless. This is a true story. It's not something that I've just made up for the purpose of Earth Day. This is something I, along with many other Australians and tourists, have experienced. My fellow students and appreciated teachers, this is ~~the~~ [an] ~~effects~~ [effect] of climate change and if we don't

change our lifestyles now, Earth will turn into a desolate wasteland, with every droplet of clean water being as valuable as gold – or perhaps, even more. #1

'But what even is climate change?' you may ask. Well, climate change isn't just some random change in the weather. It is something that ~~us~~ [we] humans have caused through the use of burning fossil fuels such as coal or ~~gasoline~~ [petrol] to power our cars, homes, and factories. Every time we burn these fuels, we release carbon dioxide into the air, trapping the heat from the Sun's UV rays in our atmosphere, and making our Earth hotter and hotter. This is the greenhouse effect. And that's not all – we are also cutting down the trees that would normally absorb the carbon dioxide, making climate change even worse. #2

Climate change isn't only affecting Australia. The bushlands in California are experiencing raging fires that tear apart the trees and leaves, killing the wildlife and many humans. Professor James from the Climate Change Research Department says "The world is getting hotter and hotter by the second. More than 12,000 people have died. Think about it. One of them could've been you. This is what happens if we don't put an end to climate change. We need to act now." Many countries across the globe suffer through severe droughts, heatwaves, hurricanes, flooding, and rising water levels. Climate change is affecting all of us. No matter where you live, if climate change isn't stopped, the Earth isn't the only thing that will have to endure the consequences. We will too. #3

So, are you going to take action? Or sit there and watch the destruction unfold? It is time we find a solution to climate change. Let us not be the generation that allows the hard work of our ancestors ~~go~~ [to go] to waste. Slowly but surely, we can build our way up to a better future. I implore all of you, teachers and students alike, to join me on a quest to restore our Earth, our home. I ask you to think before you act. Turn off lights when they aren't being used. Reuse, reduce, recycle. Support eco-friendly brands. Tomorrow morning, I will bring tree seeds for you to bring home. Plant one in your garden before it is too late. We need to fight climate change. The future is watching. The future is waiting. The future is ours to determine.