

Section 1:

#1 - First paragraph: Strengths: Your emotional opening with a personal anecdote about the Great Barrier Reef creates an immediate connection with the audience. Your descriptive language effectively contrasts the expected beauty with the disappointing reality. Weakness: Underdeveloped personal connection → While you mention this is a "true story" and something you experienced, you don't elaborate on specific details of your personal encounter or emotional response, which would strengthen the authenticity and impact of your opening. Exemplar: *I stood there last summer, my snorkel mask in hand, fighting back tears as I gazed at the ghostly white remnants of what was once a vibrant underwater paradise—a stark reminder that this wasn't just a textbook problem, but my reality.*

#2 - Third paragraph: Strengths: Your inclusion of expert testimony adds credibility to your argument. You effectively show the global impact of climate change with specific examples of environmental disasters. Weakness: Excessive generalisation → The paragraph contains broad statements about climate change effects worldwide but lacks specific data or detailed examples to support these claims. Exemplar: *In 2023 alone, California lost over 120,000 hectares of forest to wildfires, while Bangladesh experienced flooding that displaced 3.4 million people—concrete evidence that climate change respects no borders.*

#3 - Fourth paragraph: Strengths: Your thoughtful acknowledgement of opposing viewpoints demonstrates maturity in your argument. Your use of historical movements as analogies is compelling. Weakness: Undeveloped counterargument → You introduce opposing viewpoints but don't fully address the specific reasons behind climate inaction or provide targeted rebuttals. Exemplar: *When someone claims their individual actions won't matter, remind them that if each of us—all 8 billion—reduced our carbon footprint by just 10%, we would collectively prevent 3.8 billion tonnes of CO2 from entering our atmosphere annually.*

Your speech demonstrates strong persuasive elements and passionate advocacy for climate action. ■ To enhance the impact of your message, focus on adding more specific, quantifiable data to support your claims about climate change effects. Additionally,

deepen your personal connection by sharing more details about your experience at the Great Barrier Reef—how did it make you feel? What specifically did you witness? Also, strengthen your approach to counterarguments by acknowledging specific concerns about economic costs or lifestyle changes and addressing them directly. Your conclusion effectively calls for action, but consider making your suggested actions more specific with measurable goals. For instance, challenge your audience to reduce plastic use by a certain percentage or commit to specific local environmental initiatives. These additions would transform your already compelling speech into an even more powerful call to action.

Overall Score: 46/50

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 effects 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 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.

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. #2

Some people may argue that it is too late to fix climate change, that the damage has already been done and there's no point in trying to put an end to it. Others may say 'I'm just one person in a world of 8 billion. My actions won't make a difference at all.' But here's the thing: science, researchers, and professors all tell us that we can still make a change. Dr Morris Darron says 'It may feel small, but small actions lead to large changes.' Think about it – every powerful change in history started because of just a few people who were brave enough to care. The Civil Rights Movement? It began with a few individuals who stood up to injustice. The Women's Suffrage? It started with small groups of women who were often ignored by men, but kept persisting. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Rights Movement? It happened because a few activists were courageous enough to stand up to the government. Change has never needed one million people on day one. It has just needed a few people to go first, and then others to follow. So let us be the people who will take the first step, even if it's a small one. Let us inspire others by showing that doing something is always better than doing nothing. Let us be the ones who choose action over apathy. Let us care enough to do something. #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.