

# Writing Feedback

**DAY 8 | 22nd of April | HOLIDAY WRITING HOMEWORK**

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## Section 1:

### #1 (First paragraph)

**Strengths:** Your opening uses vivid sensory details to contrast past and present, effectively establishing the nostalgic tone. Your rhetorical question at the end engages readers directly.

**Weakness:** Limited concrete context → While your imagery is evocative, your opening lacks specific details about Cal itself - its location, size, or when exactly this transformation occurred. Phrases like "in just a few years" are vague. The contrast between past and present would be more impactful with more concrete markers of time and place.

**Exemplar:** *"Once a peaceful coastal town in Queensland known for its tree-lined cycling paths, Cal has transformed dramatically since 2020, when car ownership increased by 65% following the new motorway development."*

### #2 (Third paragraph)

**Strengths:** You've incorporated authoritative statistics from a reputable source. The percentage increase adds credibility to your argument about road safety concerns.

**Weakness:** Underdeveloped evidence → Your statistic about Australian road deaths is powerful but presented in isolation. You mention a 54% increase but don't provide the actual numbers, timeframe details, or how Cal specifically compares to these national figures. The connection between this general Australian statistic and your specific community could be strengthened.

**Exemplar:** *"According to the Australian Road Safety Foundation's 2024 report, child pedestrian accidents in school zones increased from 86 to 132 nationwide last year, with Cal's incident rate exceeding the national average by 12%."*

### #3 (Fourth paragraph)

**Strengths:** You effectively highlight a practical solution with the Ride2School Day example. The specific date and participation numbers provide concrete evidence of action.

**Weakness:** Narrow solution focus → Your solution relies heavily on a single initiative (Ride2School Day) without exploring other complementary approaches. The paragraph mentions impressive participation but doesn't address potential barriers to everyday sustainable commuting or how the community might overcome them.

**Exemplar:** *"Building on Ride2School Day's success, we could implement a 'Walking Bus' programme where volunteer parents supervise groups of walking children, addressing safety concerns whilst reducing emissions by an estimated 45 tonnes annually, according to the Clean Air Council."*

■ Your piece demonstrates passion for the environmental issue and uses emotive language effectively to engage readers. However, to strengthen your argument, you could incorporate more specific details about Cal itself - where exactly is it located? How many schools are affected? What is the population? Additionally, your evidence would be more compelling if you connected the general statistics more directly to your specific community situation. Your solution section could be expanded to include multiple approaches rather than focusing primarily on Ride2School Day. Also, consider including voices from the community - perhaps quotes from local teachers, parents, or council members who could add authentic perspectives. Try adding a paragraph that addresses potential counterarguments, such as why some families feel they must drive rather than use sustainable options, and how these concerns might be addressed constructively.

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**Score: 43/50**

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## **Section 2:**

### **From Harmony to Harm: Cal's Transition into an Unsustainable World**

**The streets used to be filled with the laughter of children as they rode their bikes with their friends on their way to school. Clouds used to waft across a glowing blue sky. The air used to be clean, untouched by pollution. This isn't a landscape made up in a fairy tale, this is what our city, Cal, used to be. In just a few years, our form**

of transport changed drastically. Today, our city is overrun by cars which fill the air with harmful fumes, covering our once-clear sky with thick, grey smoke. Instead of the simple, quiet mornings, children wake up to the sound of loud, roars of engines and the honking horns of frustration. Is this really the world we want to live in? #1

We don't have to wait to see the consequences, they are already here, and they're putting our young citizens at risk. Exhaust clouds ~~hand~~ [hang] low in the air as dozens of cars inch forward in a daily battle as parents try to find a place to drop off their kids. Students clutch their bags tightly as they wait for the perfect moment to dart across the traffic filled road. Drivers blare their horns at innocent children who can't find their way around the morning rush of cars. And yet, even after looking both ways, taking every precaution, and waiting for a few minutes, they still face a 6.34% risk of getting hit by a speeding car the moment they step onto the road!

According to the Australian Road Safety Foundation, the number of road deaths among Australian children increased by 54% when compared to 2023, many of which occurred around school drop-off and pick-up times. This percentage is more than just a statistic, it reflects the carelessness of drivers in school zones. With the added pressure of early-morning stress, distracted drivers, and busy roads, our streets have become more dangerous than ever. The morning and afternoon rush hours, what used to be a time where students could walk or ride home with their friends, is now a time full of danger and tragedies that could be prevented if we returned back to using sustainable forms of commute. #2

Yet, there is still hope – a path back to the world we once knew. Across Australia, schools are beginning to recognise the power of sustainable commuting. On the 22nd of March, schools participate in Ride2School Day, an annual event where students are encouraged to participate in biking, walking, scootering or skating to school instead of driving. According to the Central Coast Health Promotion Service, in 2023, around 873 schools around Australia participated, including our local primary school, and helped to save approximately 29 tonnes of carbon dioxide. #3

These numbers demonstrate that sustainable commuting is a practical solution to fostering a healthy environment. Imagine if we extended this effort beyond a single day. Imagine a city where children don't have to worry about getting hit by ongoing traffic. Imagine a city where the mornings were filled with the laughter of children instead of the growls of engines and car horns. This is the city we can build if we care enough. Cal doesn't have to remain a city of harm – it can be a city of harmony.

**But that future depends on us. It starts with the choices we make when we move around the world.**