

Writing Feedback

DAY 9 | 24th of April | HOLIDAY WRITING HOMEWORK

Section 1:

Part #1 (Letter)

Strengths:

- Your letter effectively uses statistics (73% increase in plastic, 36% decrease in pollution) to support your argument.
- You've established a clear purpose from the beginning and maintained a formal tone appropriate for addressing a councillor.

Weakness: Limited audience engagement → While you've presented solid facts, your letter doesn't fully connect with Councillor Lyn's potential interests or responsibilities. For instance, you mention environmental benefits but don't address how this might benefit the councillor politically or align with council priorities. The phrase "This not only improves but also enhances the health of our beach" is vague and misses an opportunity to be more specific about benefits that would resonate with the councillor.

Exemplar: *"Implementing this ban would not only improve the environmental health of Hart Beach but would also position our council as a progressive leader in environmental protection, something your constituents increasingly value according to recent community surveys."*

Part #2 (Speech)

Strengths:

- Your speech uses vivid imagery that appeals to emotions, helping listeners visualize the problem.
- You effectively use rhetorical questions to engage the audience directly.

Weakness: Underdeveloped call to action → While you ask the audience to join you, you don't provide specific, actionable steps they can take. The ending relies on somewhat accusatory questions rather than empowering the audience. When you say "Will you join me?" it's not clear what exactly you're asking them to join or do, making your call to action too abstract.

Exemplar: *"Let's start today by pledging to bring only reusable bottles to school, signing our petition for reduced plastic on campus, and participating in our weekend beach clean-up. I've placed sign-up sheets at the back of the hall—who will take that first step with me?"*

Part #3 (Article)

Strengths:

- Your article effectively incorporates expert testimony from Sarah McWilliams.
- You present a balanced view by acknowledging opposing perspectives (local businesses' concerns).

Weakness: Abrupt conclusion → The article ends suddenly with a brief mention of cleanup efforts, without synthesizing the information presented or offering a forward-looking perspective. The phrase "As debate whether to implement this ban or not continues in the council" feels unfinished and doesn't provide proper closure or call to action for readers.

Exemplar: *"As council debates continue, environmental advocates urge residents to attend the upcoming town hall meeting on 15th May, where public input could prove decisive in this critical decision about Hart Beach's future."*

■ Your writing shows strong foundational skills in adapting to different formats. However, there's room to deepen your understanding of specific audience needs in each format. For the letter, consider what would motivate the councillor to take action beyond environmental concerns—perhaps economic benefits or constituent satisfaction. In your speech, while you use powerful imagery, providing concrete actions would make it more effective. Your email could be strengthened by addressing the specific roles of council members and suggesting a clear timeline for action. Your article does well balancing perspectives, but needs a stronger conclusion to engage readers. Also, consider developing a more distinctive voice in each format—your letter and email sound quite similar despite having different audiences. Working on these elements would transform your writing from informative to truly persuasive.

Overall Score: 44/50

Section 2:

Letter: Dear Councillor Lyn, I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my urgent concern regarding the deteriorating conditions of Hart Beach. Research from the Australian Plastic Institution shows that there has been a 73% increase in plastic at Hart Beach, more than any in Sydney. This alarming statistic highlights the need for immediate action. One effective solution would be the implementation of a plastic bag ban in our community.

The environmental benefits would be substantial. Studies from the New South Wales Environment Department have shown that suburbs that have already enacted a plastic ban have had a 36% decrease in plastic pollution. This not only improves but also enhances the health of our beach. #1

Additionally, a plastic bag ban could help save money. Instead of spending money on plastic bags every time you go shopping, you can make a one time purchase for a reusable bag. This would reduce the waste and the money spent on single-use plastics.

I urge you to consider introducing a plastic bag ban in our area to protect Hart Beach and ensure a clean and sustainable future for a [our] community. Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

Hillary

Speech: Close your eyes for a moment. Imagine walking through a beach where, instead of walking through pristine sand sprinkled with shells, you shuffle your feet through oceans of plastic waste. Bottles, bags, broken fragments cover the ground, suffocating the landscape beneath it. Now open your eyes. This isn't just some setting in a dystopian novel – this is what Hart Beach looks like right now.

Every time we throw our finished plastic bottles away, we contribute to this crisis. Every time we bring a disposable plastic grocery bag to the shops, we contribute to this crisis. Every time we litter after we eat, we contribute to this crisis. Each of us in this room has

done something to contribute to this crisis. Students, teachers, and parents alike, every small action we take adds to the mountain of waste that is choking our environment.

But there is a way to change this. Slowly but surely, we can reduce our plastic waste. Instead of using plastic water bottles, we can use reusable, metal ones. Instead of using single-use plastic bags, we can use reusable ones. Instead of disposing of our plastic products, we can ~~use~~ reduce, reuse, and recycle. Will you join me? Or will you keep neglecting our dying environment? Will you be part of the solution? Or will you keep using plastic products? The time for action isn't tomorrow – it's today. #2

Email:

Subject: Dire Conditions at Hart Beach Require Immediate Action

Dear Hart Council,

When looking at our beach, instead of seeing crystal-clear waves crash onto a pristine beach, you would see plastic bottles and bags washing up on our shores, ~~pollution~~ [polluting] our ocean and killing our environment. This is a massive problem in our community. Some solutions to this would be implementing a plastic ban across the city, or raising the prices of plastic products.

Raising the price of plastic would influence consumers to buy cheaper, and more sustainable products instead of harmful ones. This will eventually lead to a plastic-free community after a few years. A faster solution to our plastic problem is to ban it instantly. This will force consumers to purchase sustainable products instead of giving them a choice.

Both of these changes will significantly reduce our plastic consumption, whether it's instantly or gradually. Hopefully we will be able to look forward to a more sustainable city and a cleaner and healthier beach.

From,

Hillary

Article: Hart Beach's Plastic Waste Crisis Demands Solutions

What used to be a pristine beach, bustling with wildlife, is now a graveyard full of plastic. Recent surveys have revealed a shocking 73% increase in plastic at Hart Beach and a 24% increase in marine animal deaths due to plastic, according to the Plastic Reduction Department (PRD). This has caused the council to consider a city-wide plastic ban.

"Hart Beach is no place for sea life anymore. Virtually every water sample we test from there has microplastics in it," reports Sarah McWilliams, the co-founder of PRD. "These particles enter the fish we eat, and when we eat them, they end up in our stomachs as well. This can have potentially devastating consequences for our health and bodies."

Although some local businesses argue that plastic is cheaper than other materials and it would save our community money, studies have proved that suburbs that have already introduced a plastic ban have actually saved money in the long term. Carwood's plastic ban, which was issued a few years ago, has reduced plastic waste by 81% while boosting tourism rates due to cleaner and clearer beaches.

~~As debate whether to implement this ban or not continues in the council~~ [As debate about whether to implement this ban continues in the council], cleanup processes have already begun, with machines picking up plastic from 1 P.M. to 5 P.M. #3