

Writing Feedback

TERM 1 2025 | DAY 1 WRITING | 14th April

Section 1:

#1 (First paragraph)

Strengths:

- Your emotive language effectively establishes your distress ("heart break with sorrow and anguish").
- You clearly state your position against the library demolition.

Weakness: Inconsistent formal tone → While your letter begins with appropriate formality, phrases like "unspeakable act" and "act of treachery" seem excessively dramatic for a formal persuasive letter. Additionally, there's inconsistency in your phrasing when you write "considering the devastating act to demolish" and then later shift to "How could you cause waste to the beacon of education." The phrase "I find myself compelled to voice my opposition" is effective, but "indignant among our citizens" doesn't quite convey your intended meaning.

Exemplar: *I am writing to express my profound concern regarding the proposed demolition of our community library, a decision which I believe would be met with considerable opposition from local residents.*

#2 (Second paragraph)

Strengths:

- Your sensory descriptions create a vivid picture of the library environment.
- You effectively emphasise the educational value of the library.

Weakness: Present tense confusion → You begin this paragraph with "By destroying our library, you have shattered the future" which incorrectly suggests the demolition has already occurred, when your letter aims to prevent this. This creates confusion about whether you're protesting a decision already made or one being considered. Your imagery is vivid but the sentence "Imagine the bright light seeping softly through the dark brown timber" shifts focus from the emotional appeal to physical description without connecting back to your argument.

Exemplar: *By demolishing our library, you would be eliminating a vital educational resource upon which hundreds of students depend daily for their intellectual development.*

#3 (Fourth paragraph)

Strengths:

- Your concluding paragraph effectively frames a choice for the councillor.
- You use a powerful rhetorical question at the end to emphasise your point.

Weakness: Overreliance on emotional appeal → Your final paragraph contains powerful sentiments but lacks specific, practical reasons why the library should be preserved. Phrases like "Are we so morally bankrupt" might alienate rather than persuade the councillor. The statement "Will you be remembered as the hero who saved our cherished artifact or the villain" creates a false dichotomy that oversimplifies the issue and might appear manipulative rather than persuasive.

Exemplar: *I respectfully urge you to reconsider this proposal and to protect this valuable community resource. Your decision will impact not only current library users but future generations of students who deserve the same educational opportunities we have enjoyed.*

■ Your persuasive letter shows your passion for saving the library and includes many required elements such as rhetorical questions and emotive language. However, your piece would benefit from a more balanced approach that combines emotional appeal with logical reasoning. For instance, you might consider mentioning specific benefits the library provides to different community groups or suggesting alternative solutions to whatever problem the demolition aims to solve. Additionally, while your imagery effectively conveys the emotional impact of losing the library, some descriptions become repetitive, particularly in the third paragraph where multiple metaphors describe the same concept of emotional wounds. Also, be careful with your tense usage throughout the letter to maintain clarity about whether you're discussing a potential or actual demolition. Consider revising your conclusion to end with a constructive suggestion rather than confrontational questions, which might be more persuasive to a council representative.

Overall Score: 43/50

Section 2:

Jay Cheng 522 Ford Street Sydney, Australia 23 June 2024

Councillor Whitlem 234 Hornsby Sydney, Australia

Dear Councillor Whitlem,

I write to you with a heart bleak with sorrow and anguish considering the devastating act to demolish our precious library. As a profound student who constantly ~~socializes~~ [socialises] with our community, I believe this unspeakable act would be ~~indignant~~ [met with indignation] among our citizens. #1 I find myself compelled to voice my opposition on behalf of our people. The very thought of considering to demolish this ancient structure brings shudders in my heart and tears to my eyes. How could you cause waste to the beacon of education this building has served? Councillor Whitlem, I ~~beesech~~ [beseech] you to consider this act of treachery.

By destroying our library, you ~~have shattered~~ [would shatter] the future of our beloved students. By destroying our library, you ~~have extinguished~~ [would extinguish] our hopes and dreams for having a better education. #2 Councillor Whitlem, do you not realize we count on this library to educate ourselves? Every day, hundreds if not thousands of students enter this very library and fill their heads with Knowledge. Imagine the scraping sound of pencils scratching neatly on paper. Imagine the bright, cheerful children, standing in admiration for the author who created their books. Imagine the bright light seeping softly through the dark brown timber, the windows glinting from the light. Can you not see the amount of people affected by your decision? I hope the future of our community lies in good hands.

By destroying our library, you would create gaping wounds in the community's heart. Those wounds would be everlasting deep inside our souls. Those wounds would attack us, hurt us, and slowly destroy us. Every book grasped forcefully by the bulldozers would cause cuts in our bodies. ~~Councilor~~ [Councillor], can you not see the damage being inflicted upon us by destroying this artifact, can you not see the consequences caused by

this decision? Envision shards of glass falling on the ground like tears leaking through our faces. Stone crumbling away as our community slowly withers away. Walls falling apart ~~uncontrollably~~ [uncontrollably] as we try our best to grasp the remains of our dreams and hopes. Can you imagine the sorrows and the moans heard at night after you agree with this catastrophic decision? Ultimately, by destroying our irreplaceable library you will not only destroy priceless books but also create unrecoverable wounds in our mental state and health.

#3 Councillor ~~Whitlan~~ [Whitlem], I once again urge you to choose a side which will be beneficial ~~at~~ [to all] citizens of local state. The future of me, along with many other innocent children belongs to you. Will you be remembered as the hero who saved our cherished artifact or the villain who destroyed many enormous learning opportunities. The choice is in your own hands. Are we so morally bankrupt we choose a few measly dollars over a relic like a library? Is it worth the trade?

Yours faithfully,

Jay Cheng