TERM 1 2025 | 18th April | HOLIDAY WRITING

Section 1:

#1: Opening paragraph of formal email

Strengths:

- Establishes a formal tone appropriate for communicating with the principal
- Clearly states the purpose of the email regarding playground renovation

Weakness: Punctuation errors \rightarrow The first sentence contains a comma splice, and there's inconsistent capitalisation of "Principal Kevin". The tone shifts abruptly from formal to dramatic without sufficient development.

Exemplar: Dear Principal Kevin, I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my grave concern regarding the deteriorating state of our playground facilities, which has transformed from a safe haven for students into a hazardous environment causing anxiety amongst our student body.

#2: Second paragraph of formal email

Strengths:

- Uses vivid sensory descriptions to paint a picture of the playground's poor condition
- Incorporates emotive language to convey urgency about the situation

Weakness: Overuse of metaphors \rightarrow The paragraph contains multiple metaphors that aren't fully developed and some comparisons are exaggerated. Phrases like "hits me like a streaking bullet" and "hollow graveyard you created" undermine credibility and may come across as accusatory.

Exemplar: As I enter the playground, the metallic scent of rust is immediately noticeable. The once tranquil sounds of birds chirping have been replaced by an uncomfortable silence, broken only by the painful screeches of swings with every movement. Crumbling rocks scatter across the cracked pavement, while jagged metal

protrudes from the slide, creating a dismal environment that urgently requires restoration.

#3: Middle section of informal email

Strengths:

- Effectively uses bullet points to outline key concerns in an informal, accessible way
- Maintains an appropriately casual yet persuasive tone for fellow students

Weakness: Underdeveloped arguments \rightarrow The points about safety, impressions and exercise are stated without sufficient supporting evidence or real examples. The explanation for why these matter to students specifically is missing.

Exemplar: This isn't just about having fun, it's about serious concerns that affect us all: • Safety — Those trip hazards and dangerous spikes have already caused three accidents last term, including when Jamie twisted his ankle on the uneven pavement! • Impressions — When parents and visitors see our wrecked playground, they get the wrong impression about how much our school values our wellbeing and recreation. • Exercise — We're all missing out on crucial physical activity because nobody feels comfortable playing in these hazardous conditions!

Your emails show good understanding of the different audiences and purposes. The formal and informal tones are generally well-maintained throughout each email. However, there are several areas where you could strengthen your writing to make it more persuasive and impactful.

The formal email to the principal would benefit from more factual evidence rather than emotional appeals. You've included some statistics and referenced the Australian constitution, which is good, but these points need more development and credibility. For example, the constitution reference seems potentially inaccurate and could undermine your argument.

In the informal email, you've captured an engaging tone, but some of the expressions might be too dramatic. Try balancing your passionate language with clear, actionable steps that will motivate your peers to join your cause.

Additionally, both emails would benefit from more specific examples of how the playground issues affect daily student life. Concrete examples create more compelling

arguments than general statements. Also consider adding a clearer vision of what the renovated playground could look like and how it would benefit everyone.

Work on developing smoother transitions between paragraphs and ideas to help your reader follow your arguments more easily.

Overall score: 43/50

Section 2:

Subject: Last chance to save our playground! To: principal KEvin [Kevin]@sscps.com

Dear Principal Kevin,

I hope this letter finds you well, [.] I am writing to express my grave concern regarding the deteriorating state of our playground facilities. Once a safe haven for students to enjoy, now a hazardous playground that brings anxiety to students. [Once a safe haven for students to enjoy, our playground has now become a hazardous area that brings anxiety to students.] Principal Kevin, I respectfully beckon you to renovate our playground while addressing the critical issue of safety.

#1 As I head into the playground, a metallic scent of rust hits me like a streaking bullet. The usual tranquil sounds of birds are replaced by deafening silence. The usual swift movements of the swing [swings] are replaced by painful screeches with every movement. Crumbling rocks litter on the cracked pavement, while jagged metal litter [protrudes from] the slide. This hollow graveyard you ereated [This neglected area] is begging for care, begging for restoration. With every second, the condition of this playground worsens. This is not any [an] normal issue, this is a safety crisis.

Here are three major issues concerning our play facility:

Safety—poisonous scent of rust, jagged metal on slide, and crumbling rocks on pavement
Lack of exercise—The dangerous environment reduces exercise from [among] students, posing health threats
Mental Wellbeing—The anxiety of walking over a wrecked playground would be enough to deteriorate student's [students'] wellbeing

If you do not properly address these concerns, consequences will be handed out to our school. Section 3, Article #202 of the Australian constitution mentions that any safety concern related to a school may result in closure for our school. Imagine the tears trickling tears [trickling down the faces] of students when they find out that this school would close down. Imagine the shock on parents' faces when the news reaches them!

Additionally, researchers and scientists from the Institute of Education have found that schools who [that] maintain a playground report 20% fewer behaviour issues compared to schools that don't maintain their school equipment. In short, our school deserves nothing less than a safe engaging [, engaging] environment to play with [in].

Principal Kevin, I attentively [respectfully] ask you to consider the following:

- 1. Restore and repair all playground equipment
- 2. Improve our playground to prevent deterioration
- 3. Attentively [Regularly] check for hazardous risks inside the playground

Thank you for taking your time to consider my procedures [proposals] to restore our school playground.

Yours faithfully, Rick Student council representative marvincheng1@gmail.com

Subject: Our playground is crumbling to the ground! To: student1@gmail.com

Hi everyone,

Our cherished playground is falling apart! Have you noticed the rust that gathered [has gathered] over the playground in the course of a few years? This sorry state of the playground is unacceptable! Let's save it by renovating the equipment!

Our playground was once a place for students to enjoy, a place to have fun. Now, it's a ghost town, a place that gathers [generates] anxiety inside our heads. The pavement has more rocks than the bacteria on my hand, and the slide has more spikes than a hedgehog. No longer does this playground bring happiness to students, it now brims with despair. Yesterday, I watched unfortunate Year 3's [3s] trip on the tumbling rocks when they tried to play football!

#3 This isn't about having fun, it's about:

• Safety— the trip hazards and the dangerous spikes cannot be to [too] safe for anyone!

- Impressions— Imagine parents looking at the wrecked state of our playground. What would they think?
- Exercise— Nobody would be able to get a single drop of exercise in these conditions!

Here is what we can do!

- Grab a smartphone and take photos of the worst areas.
- Recount incidents that happened due to the condition of our play equipment
- Brainstorm new ideas to improve our playground
- Organise a fundraiser to get the financial aid we need

Can you imagine our school having a playground with smooth slides, clean floors, vibrant eolors [colours] and sturdy equipment? If you want what I envision to come true, take action to restore our playground!

#2 Come to Room 14 at lunchtime tomorrow to listen to further details concerning the plan!

Thanks for everything, Rick