

Writing Feedback

DAY 6 | HOLIDAY WRITING HOMEWORK

Section 1:

#1 "Dear Councillor Jordan, I write to you not only as a cherished citizen of our city, but also as a senior student at David Hill Public School regarding the terrible state of our school playground. I find myself compelled to voice my concern over our school's devastated play equipment. Once safe haven for students to engage with, now a place that radiates fear and anxiety."

Strengths:

- Your introduction effectively establishes your position and relationship to the issue, creating a clear context for your concern.
- You've used strong emotional language ("devastated," "radiates fear") that immediately conveys the severity of the situation.

Weakness: Underdeveloped figurative language → Your attempt at personification with "radiates fear" is present but could be more impactful. The sentence structure also becomes fragmented in the third sentence, reducing the formal tone needed for a council member.

Exemplar: *"Once a safe haven for students to thrive in, our playground has transformed into an environment that radiates fear and anxiety throughout our school community."*

#2 "Last Thursday, I saw poor Hayden from 6A crumbling uncontrollably onto the ground after the hand bars failed to hold his weight. I watched him fall in slow motion, heard the thump when his leg hit the sharp rocks that littered the ground. His wretched face was contorted with pain, his usual smile now forced to a painful frown."

Strengths:

- Your sensory details are vivid and engaging, particularly the visual and auditory elements of the fall.

- The personal anecdote provides a compelling real-world example of the dangers present.

Weakness: Excessive dramatic language → The description uses overly dramatic words like "crumbling" and "wretched" that undermine the credibility of your formal request. The timeline of events also seems inconsistent with the mention of "two weeks after" later in the paragraph.

Exemplar: *"Last Thursday, I witnessed Hayden from 6A fall helplessly when the hand bars gave way beneath him. The sickening sound of his leg striking the sharp rocks below echoed across the playground as his typically cheerful expression transformed into one of genuine pain."*

#3 "Dangerous craters and sharp rocks litter the pavement, choosing the next one to injure, the next victim. This environment is not only poses as a physical threat to our students, but also fills anxiety into our parents."

Strengths:

- Your personification of the playground hazards "choosing the next victim" effectively communicates the unpredictable danger.
- You've expanded the concern beyond students to include parental anxiety, broadening the impact.

Weakness: Grammatical inconsistency → The second sentence contains a structural error with "not only poses as" followed by awkward phrasing with "fills anxiety into." This undermines the formality required for a council communication.

Exemplar: *"Dangerous craters and sharp rocks litter the pavement, seemingly waiting to claim their next victim. This environment not only poses a physical threat to our students but also fills our parents with constant anxiety."*

■ Your piece demonstrates passion and genuine concern for the playground's condition and student safety. The inclusion of a specific incident with Hayden provides compelling evidence of the real dangers present. However, your writing would benefit from more consistent formality appropriate for a council member. The emotional language sometimes becomes overly dramatic, which can detract from your persuasive appeal. Additionally, you could strengthen your case by including more specific requests or suggestions for the renovation. Try to balance emotional appeals with practical considerations, such as maintenance requirements or specific safety standards that aren't

being met. Also, consider adding more structure to your email by clearly separating your description of the problem from your proposed solution. Your conclusion is strong, but would benefit from a more specific call to action that outlines exactly what you want the councillor to do next.

Overall Score: 38/50

Section 2:

Dear Councillor Jordan,

I write to you not only as a cherished citizen of our city, but also as a senior student at David Hill Public School regarding the terrible state of our school playground. I find myself compelled to voice my concern over our school's devastated play equipment. ~~Once safe haven for students to engage with, now a place that radiates fear and anxiety.~~ [Once a safe haven for students to engage with, now it is a place that radiates fear and anxiety.] Unfortunately, the most critical part of our playground lacks safety features. The once sturdy wood benches have weathered to reveal splintering wood, collapsing with minimal weight. The once vibrant paint that covers our play equipment has been washed away, leaving teardrop-shaped colors on the uneven ground, signalling the wrecked state of our playground.

#1 Last Thursday, I saw poor Hayden from 6A ~~crumbling~~ [falling] uncontrollably onto the ground after the hand bars failed to hold his weight. I watched him fall in slow motion, heard the thump when his leg hit the sharp rocks that littered the ground. His wretched face was contorted with pain, his usual smile now forced to a painful frown. The usual blazing look in his eyes faded, as tears rolled ~~of~~ [off] his pale face. I was forced to watch my friend suffer hopelessly, knowing that I could not stop the pain. All I could do was call for help and wait. Two weeks after the tragic incident, paramedics reportedly gave him 12 stitches for the deep gash formed in his ankle. This isn't all about Hayden, numerous other children have suffered the pain ~~as~~ [like] Hayden. By restoring our playground, you will have ~~brought~~ [bring] relief to more than 500 families. By restoring our playground, you would relieve students from their anxiety and suffering.

As parents, you entrust your beloved children to school, knowing that they ~~will~~ [will] come home safe. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for the parents of our school. ~~Everyday~~ [Every day], they have to worry about the safety of their children. ~~Everyday~~ [Every day], parents hope that the next to fall victim to our play equipment is not their child. Our playground seems like an obstacle course with hazardous play equipment everywhere. #3 Dangerous craters and sharp rocks litter the pavement, choosing the next one to injure, the next victim. ~~This environment is not only poses as a physical threat to our students, but also fills anxiety into our parents.~~ [This environment not only poses a physical threat to our students, but also fills our parents with anxiety.]

#2 As our elected councillor member, I respectfully request an inspection immediately, followed by funding for a new and improved playground. Students at my school deserve a safe environment to thrive and exercise in.

We created this playground. We can restore this. We will restore this. We must restore this.

Yours faithfully,

Marvin

David Hill Public School