

Writing Feedback

DAY 8 | 22nd of April | HOLIDAY WRITING HOMEWORK

Section 1:

#1 (First paragraph) Strengths:

- Your opening uses vivid imagery and emotional storytelling to engage readers.
- You effectively introduce a cultural connection to the environmental issue.

Weakness: Underdeveloped context → Your introduction, while emotionally powerful, doesn't clearly establish the broader environmental issue affecting the community. The reader needs more context about what exactly has happened to Silverwater Creek and why it matters beyond this specific incident. You mention "Tom could see the lifeless bodies of innocent turtles" but don't explain the scope of the pollution or its source until later.

An environmental disaster has struck the heart of our community's heritage. Silverwater Creek, once a pristine waterway central to Aboriginal traditions dating back generations, now lies contaminated with industrial pollutants that threaten both cultural practices and ecological balance.

#2 (Fourth paragraph) Strengths:

- You incorporate expert testimony which adds credibility to your article.
- You include specific statistics about lead contamination.

Weakness: Limited scientific explanation → The expert quote provides a statistic but doesn't explain the implications of lead contamination for human health or the ecosystem. The emotional reaction ("eye-watering statistic") takes precedence over explaining why readers should be concerned about lead levels. The paragraph would benefit from connecting the statistic to specific consequences for wildlife or human health.

"Tests reveal lead concentrations twelve times above federal safety limits, which poses serious risks to both aquatic life and human health," explained Dr. Maria from the Scientific Institute of Marine Biology. "These levels can cause neurological damage in children who might come in contact with the water and devastate the creek's ecosystem for decades if not properly addressed."

#3 (Final paragraph) Strengths:

- You attempt to conclude with a call to action.
- You summarize the dual impact (economic and environmental).

Weakness: Vague conclusion → Your conclusion lacks specific, actionable steps for readers. The phrase "we must take action immediately to recover" doesn't guide readers on what actions they could take. Additionally, the conclusion feels abrupt and doesn't provide a compelling vision of what restoration could look like or why it matters beyond the immediate crisis.

To restore Silverwater Creek to its former ecological glory and cultural significance, our community must demand Westfield implement a comprehensive cleanup plan with ecological monitoring, advocate for stricter industrial waste regulations, and support Indigenous-led restoration efforts. Only through coordinated action can we ensure this sacred waterway survives for future generations.

■ Your piece tackles an important local environmental issue with emotional resonance, particularly in connecting pollution to Indigenous cultural practices. However, the article would benefit from a clearer structure that guides readers through the problem, causes, impacts, and solutions. The narrative feels somewhat fragmented between personal stories, scientific data, and economic impacts without strong transitions to connect these elements. You've included expert voices, which strengthens your argument, but these could be developed further to explain the broader implications of the pollution. Adding more specific details about how the contamination occurred and what solutions are possible would give readers a more complete understanding of the issue. Your passion for the topic comes through clearly, but providing more factual context would strengthen the piece substantially. Also, consider adding a more compelling headline that captures both the environmental crisis and cultural impact.

Score: 42/50

Section 2:

Every year, indigenous Australians living near Cherrybrook perform a unique and sacred tradition at the nearby Silverwater Creek. This tradition of bathing in the lake symbolises renewal and rebirth, and the tradition has been transferred throughout multiple generations of Aboriginals living at Cherrybrook. Tom Gleeson, aged 85, was going to practise the tradition with his son, until he reached the lake. A ~~supernatural~~ [unnatural] oily sheen coated the usual clear river. Looking down, Tom could see the lifeless bodies of innocent turtles that once dwelt in the creek, their usual proud smiles, now turned to painful frowns of betrayal. "A metallic smell drifted into my mouth, numbing my tongue. The taste seemed to control my taste buds!" Tom further added, his voice shaking with rage. #1

Tom now stands on his balcony, his eyes watering with grief and anger. "I cannot believe Westfield would do this to the environment. Do this to Aboriginals living around the area." ~~Said~~ [said] Tom, his tone souring. "This is a disgrace, now our creek looks like someone who spilled oil into milk!" Tom accused.

Tourists heading into the area would be greeted by an uncanny sight, not to mention the sickly smell. The once vibrant coral reefs no longer mirror a rainbow; now they look like they have been bleached multiple times. This coral graveyard was once home to multiple varieties of fish, many of which have died after the environment collapsed. The surface is no longer home to lush, green algae, but home to occasional ghastly bubbles that ooze out of the water. The ~~oder~~ [odour], composed of ~~corps~~ [corpses] and rubbish, ~~drift~~ [drifts] around the river, attacking unfortunate citizens who wander too close to the creek." ~~The smell intruded into my nose, the smell blurring me into a haze. It was like I could feel the smell~~ [The smell invaded my nose, blurring me into a haze. It was like I could physically feel it]." exclaimed Harold, a resident of Cherrybrook.

"The ecological impact in Cherrybrook is evident through statistics." ~~Explained~~ [explained] Dr Maria, a researcher from the Scientific Institute of Marine Biology. After her team ~~excluded~~ [extracted] several chemical compounds from the water of the creek, they revealed that the concentration of lead contained in the contaminated water exceeds Federal Health regulations by 12 times. " In my 56 years of work I have never witnessed such an eye-watering statistic!" Dr Maria said.

Last week, the executive of Westfield, a company ~~who~~ [which] has been recently accused of contaminating and polluting Silver Water Creek, admitted its mistake after immense pressure from social media. " The oil and gas released into the creek ~~exceeds~~ [exceed] the Federal Health Standards." ~~Says~~ [said] James, confirming the public's suspicion.

Furthermore, the economic impact on Cherrybrook's residents ~~are~~ [is] equally concerning. Property values ~~in-average~~ [on average] ~~has~~ [have] dropped by 56%! These numbers would mean a staggering 1.7 million drop in property values around 500 metres of the creek " This puts colossal strain on the residents who want to relocate to other places, as they would not be able to sell their house with profit." explained Dr Damien, a professional salesperson.

In the final analysis, the pollution caused by Westfield has not only brought ~~economical~~ [economic] concerns regarding property values, but also ~~cause~~ [caused] the creek to experience an environmental collapse. In order to recover from the collapse, we must take action immediately to recover. #3