

Section 1:

****#1: Opening Paragraph (Imagination sequence)*****Strengths:* Your opening creates a powerful sensory experience using vivid imagery that immediately engages the audience. The second-person perspective effectively places listeners directly in the scenario. *Weakness:* Pacing issue → The opening sequence, while evocative, extends for five sentences before revealing its purpose, which might cause listeners to lose focus during an oral presentation. *Exemplar: **Imagine waking not to birdsong, but to desperate gasps for breath in poisoned air—this isn't some distant nightmare, but the future we're creating with every carbon-emitting choice.***

****#2: Middle Section (Scientific evidence)*****Strengths:* Your inclusion of specific data from the IPCC adds credibility to your argument. The emotional language about marine life creates a powerful visual impact. *Weakness:* Balance issue → The scientific section focuses heavily on emotional language rather than balancing it with more concrete statistics or examples relevant to your audience's daily lives. *Exemplar: **Scientists predict that without immediate action, our oceans will become acidic wastelands by 2100, with sea levels rising up to one metre—putting coastal communities where many of us holiday at risk and creating millions of climate refugees.***

#3: Call to Action Section*Strengths:* Your list provides clear, actionable steps that are accessible to students. The formatting makes this information easy to remember. *Weakness:* Specificity issue → While the suggestions are practical, they lack context about their potential impact, which might leave listeners questioning whether these small actions truly matter. *Exemplar: **Switch to reusable options: bringing your own drink bottles can prevent hundreds of plastic bottles from entering landfills each year, while meat-free days reduce your carbon footprint by up to 8% per meal.***

■ Your speech demonstrates impressive rhetorical skill through the use of repetition and powerful imagery, particularly in creating emotional connections to climate change. However, your piece would benefit from a stronger personal connection as requested in the prompt. While you mention Australia's bushfires, consider sharing how these events affected you personally or your community specifically. Also, your speech exceeds the 500-word limit considerably, which might make it difficult to deliver within the 3-minute

timeframe. Try condensing your key points and eliminating some repetition, particularly in the middle sections where similar questions are posed multiple times. Additionally, your opposing viewpoint paragraph could be expanded with a more specific counterargument rather than general economic concerns. Consider focusing your descriptive language sections more tightly to create maximum impact without overwhelming the listener.

Overall Score: 45/50

Section 2:

Close your eyes for a moment. Imagine waking not to the sweet melody of birds, but to desperate gasps—as your lungs strain against the thick, poisonous air. Envision yourself walking not on soft grass, but on cracked, parched earth that splinters beneath your feet like fragile glass. Picture yourself reaching for water—a single droplet, so ethereal and precious, just within sight but out of reach. Food, rationed like medicine—tightly controlled, barely enough to survive.

#1 This isn't a nightmare. You aren't dreaming. This isn't a dystopian film. You are certainly not watching a movie. This, my fellow peers and esteemed teachers, is the future we're creating with every carbon-emitting choice we make today.

Climate change might seem like just a background issue—something distant, something normal, and something we shouldn't take seriously. But in a few years, it may be the one thing we regret not acting on when we still had the chance.

Our planet—our shared home—stands on the edge of humanity's cliff. A cliff of catastrophe. A cataclysmic abyss from which there may be no return.

Today, I speak to you not just as a classmate, but as a voice for the voiceless— The generation yet to be born, who deserve a world that is not crumbling, but thriving. A world that is not poisoned, but protected. A sustainable sanctuary.

The question is: Will we be able to give it to them?

Consider, for a moment, the world that awaits us. #2 Scientists from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change predict that without immediate action, our oceans—once teeming with vibrant coral gardens and graceful marine choreography—will become acidic wastelands where calcium-dependent creatures dissolve in slow, excruciating deaths. Those same waters, which cradled life from its first cellular stirrings, will rise by up to one meter by 2100—drowning coastal cities beneath merciless waves, erasing centuries of human achievement and displacing millions of climate refugees.

Is this the inheritance we wish to leave? Is this the legacy we choose to create? Is this the future we dare call progress?

Some may argue that climate action is too expensive or too disruptive. They claim the economy will suffer, that change takes time, that we'll adapt later. But what use is a thriving economy on a dying planet? What's the cost of delay—when the price is the Earth itself?

Here in Australia, our beloved bushlands—once alive with the rustle of eucalyptus leaves and the laugh of kookaburras—are transformed each summer into hellscapes. Flames leap from crown to crown. Wildlife, trapped and panicked, flee until exhaustion claims them—or fire consumes them—leaving behind the acrid stench of charred fur and the deafening silence of extinction.

We saw this reality in 2019–2020, when three billion animals were incinerated or died from starvation after their habitats were reduced to smouldering ash. Each cinder that rose from those fires carried skyward the ashes of our indifference. Each plume of smoke—a dark monument to our collective failure.

But it definitely does not have to end this way.

We are not powerless witnesses—we are the architects of the future. The same hands that have damaged this earth can now begin to heal it. The same minds that engineered convenience at the cost of nature can now innovate toward sustainability. And the same voices that once remained silent... can now rise in unified defiance.

Change doesn't begin with billion-dollar policies or global summits. It begins here: In classrooms. In conversations. In choices.

So I ask you one last time:

Will we leave behind a legacy of apathy? Or rise to become the generation that turned things around?

Let us not be remembered as the ones who watched it all burn— —but as the ones who stood up, spoke out, and sparked change.

Because the future is not written yet. And together—we can write a better one.

And it starts now—with us.

#3 Switch to reusable options: bring your own drink bottles, shopping bags, and lunch containers. Cut out single-use plastics. Eat smart: try going meat-free once or twice a week. Choose locally grown foods that don't travel thousands of kilometers. Save energy: turn off lights and devices when not in use. Unplug chargers. Use fans instead of air-conditioning. Speak up: start conversations, create posters, join climate campaigns, or write letters to local representatives asking for cleaner energy solutions. Reduce waste: recycle properly, compost food scraps, and avoid overconsumption. Use sustainable transport: walk, ride a bike, carpool, or catch public transport when you can.

Change doesn't need to be huge to be powerful—it just needs to begin.

Because you don't have to be a scientist to care. You don't have to be a world leader to lead. You just have to care enough to act.

Together, let's be the spark that lights the path forward—for our planet, for each other, and for the future.