

Writing Feedback

DAY 7 | 22nd of April | HOLIDAY WRITING HOMEWORK

Section 1:

#1: The Hook and Introduction

Strengths:

- Your hook effectively establishes an emotional contrast between past and present
- The vivid imagery creates an immediate sensory experience for readers

Weakness: Limited local context → While your introduction paints a powerful picture, it lacks specific geographical context that would ground readers in the real-world significance of Silverwater Creek. Including the creek's location within New South Wales or its importance to the local ecosystem would strengthen your opening and help readers connect with the issue on a more concrete level.

Exemplar: *"Once a playground for dragonflies and a sanctuary for picnicking families in Sydney's western suburbs, Silverwater Creek now runs like a wounded vein through the heart of our community—its once-sparkling waters, which sustained local wildlife for generations, now lifeless and choked with pollution."*

#2: PEEL Paragraph 1 (The Evidence of Decline)

Strengths:

- Strong integration of statistics and expert testimony
- Clear explanation of how pollutants affect the broader ecosystem

Weakness: Data presentation needs specificity → Your citation of the 320% pollution level is striking but remains somewhat vague. Which specific pollutant exceeded safe thresholds by this percentage? Breaking down the statistics further would strengthen your argument and provide readers with more concrete information about the severity of different contaminants.

Exemplar: *"According to a 2024 report by the New South Wales Environmental Monitoring Authority, lead concentrations in Silverwater Creek have exceeded safe*

thresholds by 320%, while phosphate and nitrate levels are consistently four times higher than acceptable standards for recreational waterways."

#3: Call to Action Section

Strengths:

- Creates urgency through emotional appeal
- Suggests specific, actionable steps for multiple stakeholders

Weakness: Unspecific accountability measures → Your call to action mentions holding leaders accountable but doesn't specify which leaders or through what mechanisms. This leaves readers without clear direction on how to channel their concern into effective action. Naming specific authorities or outlining concrete accountability processes would make this section more practical.

Exemplar: *"We need immediate investment in creek restoration, stricter regulation enforcement by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment, and monthly public transparency reports from the five factories currently operating within the creek's catchment area."*

■ Your feature article effectively blends emotional appeal with factual evidence to create a compelling narrative about environmental degradation. The PEEL structure in your paragraphs works well to build your argument systematically. To improve the substance of your piece, focus on developing more specific local connections throughout—mention nearby suburbs, local wildlife species affected, or historical importance of the creek to Aboriginal communities. Also, your balanced perspectives section could benefit from more detailed exploration of the regulatory framework and its shortcomings. Adding a brief timeline of the creek's degradation would help readers understand how the situation evolved over time. Consider including a paragraph about successful restoration projects elsewhere to provide hope and practical models. Your descriptive language is effective, but could be more strategically deployed to highlight the contrast between healthy and polluted sections of the waterway.

Overall Score: 45/50

Section 2:

From Pristine to Poisoned: The Tragic and Cataclysmic Transformation of Silverwater Creek

#1: Once a playground for dragonflies and a sanctuary for picnicking families, Silverwater Creek now runs like a wounded vein through the heart of our community—its once-sparkling waters now lifeless and choked with pollution.

Silverwater Creek, once a crystalline canvas, now a grotesque facade of decay. Swirling with hues of dull olive and ash grey, its waters reflect not the sky above, but the negligence and harm we've been pouring into it. Horrid scents blanket the environment like a toxic fog—an ever-present reminder of what's been lost. Where children once skipped stones, sludge now clings to the banks, and dead fish float belly-up as if in protest.

The degradation of the creek has been no accident. It's the product of years of unchecked industrial runoff, careless waste disposal, and minimal regulatory oversight. Nearby residents, like long-time local Melissa Tan, remember a very different scene. "You used to see kids swimming here on hot days. Now, you wouldn't even let your dog touch the water."

#2: PEEL Paragraph 1: The Evidence of Decline The environmental toll is undeniable. According to a 2024 report by the New South Wales Environmental Monitoring Authority, pollutant levels in Silverwater Creek have exceeded safe thresholds by 320%—including dangerously high concentrations of phosphates, nitrates, and heavy metals such as lead and mercury. These chemicals don't just affect aquatic life; they seep into the surrounding soil and impact broader ecosystems, including the flora and fauna that depend on the waterway. As environmental scientist Dr. Leila Hossain explains, "We're not just looking at water pollution. We're witnessing the collapse of an entire micro-ecosystem."

PEEL Paragraph 2: The Human Impact But it's not just the environment that's suffering—the community is too. Families living near the creek report increased respiratory issues, skin irritations, and foul odors invading their homes. Residents of Silverwater Estate, a development located less than 500 meters from the water, have lodged over 80 complaints to local council in the past year alone. Despite this, little action has been taken. "It feels like we're being ignored," says Ahmed Fariq, a father of

three. "We don't want fancy reports. We want to feel safe letting our kids play outside again."

Balancing Perspectives Industry representatives, however, argue that the issue is more complex. Some claim that while certain factories near the creek have outdated waste filtration systems, they are operating within their legal discharge limits. "Our operations comply with current regulations," states Lyndon Parks, spokesperson for Silverwater Industrial Group. "We're open to working with environmental agencies to improve things, but the burden shouldn't fall entirely on industry." Yet, critics argue that "compliance" isn't enough when the regulations themselves are outdated or poorly enforced.

Imagery & Descriptive Language Walking along the banks of the creek today, you'd be forgiven for mistaking it for a scene from a dystopian film. The once-golden reeds now droop like mourners at a wake. A crust of unidentified foam gathers near drainage points. Birds hover hesitantly, then retreat. The air, once filled with the scent of eucalyptus and cool water, now reeks of rot and chemicals. Nature has not just receded—it has recoiled.

#3: Call to Action: A Path Forward This is not an unsolvable crisis—but it is an urgent one. We need immediate investment in creek restoration, stricter regulation enforcement, and transparency from polluting entities. Community-led clean-up initiatives, supported by council and local businesses, could begin to reclaim the creek's natural beauty. More importantly, our leaders must be held accountable for turning a blind eye.

Silverwater Creek is more than a waterway. It's a symbol of how carelessness can corrupt beauty—and how, with effort, it can be reversed. Let us not wait until the last fish dies or the last child forgets it was once safe to swim. The creek is calling. Are we ready to listen?