

Section 1:

Part #1 (Paragraph 2)

Strengths:

- Emotive language creates a powerful contrast between the library and proposed shopping centre
- Effective use of imagery with books as "fallen leaves" and retail as "clamour of chaos"

Weakness: Overreliance on emotional appeals → While emotional language can be persuasive, your argument relies too heavily on pathos without balancing it with logos (facts and statistics). The metaphors about "whispers of children" and "shelves brimming with stories" are evocative but lack concrete evidence to support why the library should be preserved. The paragraph becomes somewhat melodramatic, which may undermine your credibility with council members seeking rational arguments.

Exemplar: *Instead of claiming the library will be "replaced by the clamour of retail chaos," you could write: "According to a 2023 community impact study by the National Library Association, communities that lose their public libraries experience a 37% decrease in literacy programmes and a 42% reduction in free public educational events – resources our community cannot afford to lose."*

Part #2 (Paragraph 4)

Strengths:

- Good recognition of libraries as community gathering spaces
- Strong point about accessibility for vulnerable populations

Weakness: Underdeveloped comparison → Your comparison between libraries and shopping centres lacks depth and specific examples. While you mention libraries as "safe, inclusive, and quiet spaces," you don't fully explore how they specifically serve different demographics in your community. The paragraph makes general claims about libraries

bridging "social divides" but doesn't explain how your particular library accomplishes this. Additionally, the paragraph lacks expert testimony or research to validate these important claims.

Exemplar: *"Our library currently serves over 2,500 residents monthly, with 40% being elderly or low-income citizens who rely on its free internet access for essential services, according to the library's annual usage report. Professor Sarah Williams from Oxford University's Social Policy Department has documented how community libraries reduce social isolation by 28% among elderly populations – a benefit no shopping centre can provide."*

Part #3 (Paragraph 5)

Strengths:

- Creative analogy comparing shopping centres to puzzles and libraries to relationships
- Acknowledgment of economic considerations that might concern council members

Weakness: Insufficient counterargument development → Your paragraph briefly acknowledges potential economic benefits of a shopping centre but dismisses them without thoroughly engaging with this counterargument. You state that "economic benefits of a well-educated population far outweigh" commercial gains but don't provide evidence for this claim. The paragraph would be stronger if it directly addressed the council's likely economic motivations with specific data and offered alternative solutions that could satisfy both community needs and economic objectives.

Exemplar: *"While a new shopping centre might generate approximately £1.2 million in annual tax revenue, a comprehensive study by the British Library Association found that every pound invested in public libraries yields £5.50 in community benefits through improved literacy rates, reduced educational inequality, and increased local business support – making our library not just a cultural asset but a sound economic investment."*

■ Your letter demonstrates genuine passion for preserving the library and includes some persuasive elements. However, to strengthen your argument, you should incorporate specific data about your library's usage, community impact, and economic value. Also, you might benefit from addressing the counterargument about economic development more directly. Try including statistics on how many community members use the library

annually or how many educational programmes it hosts. Additionally, consider researching successful cases where communities have preserved historic libraries while accommodating commercial development, offering the council a compromise solution rather than an either/or scenario. Your emotional appeals would have more impact if balanced with factual evidence that council members can cite in their deliberations.

Overall Score: 43/50

Section 2:

Dear Esteemed Members of the Council,

I am writing to you with a heavy heart and a deep sense of concern regarding the proposed demolition of our beloved community library on Oakridge Lane. As a lifelong resident of this city, I urge you to reconsider this deeply disheartening decision. The library is not merely a building—it is the very soul of our community, a sanctuary for the curious, and a refuge for the lost. As someone who has experienced the many benefits of the library, I must show the benefits of the library, especially in education and unity. Have you truly considered what we are sacrificing in the name of so-called "progress", and more importantly what message ~~are we~~ [are we] sending to the next generation when we tear down places of learning to make room for parking lots and profit?

#1 As we stand on the brink of allowing our beloved library, a testament to history, to be demolished for a shiny new shopping centre, we must pause to consider the profound loss that this decision entails. The library's walls, once filled with the whispers of children discovering the magic of books and the hushed deliberations of scholars immersed in ancient knowledge, will fall completely silent, sucked of all life and replaced by the clamour of retail chaos. Imagine the shelves, once brimming with stories and ideas, their cherished volumes torn from their sanctuaries, pages fluttering like fallen leaves in a harsh wind now instead walls of toys. Can we really risk sacrificing our collective soul for fleeting consumerism, ~~jeopardizing~~ [jeopardising] a space that has fostered imagination, connection, and growth for generations?

But now think about this experience I have been lucky to have. When I walk through the tall, arched wooden doors of the library, I am immediately embraced by the comforting scent of aging paper and polished oak shelves. Sunlight lightly filters through the stained-glass windows, casting a kaleidoscope of ~~colors~~ [colours] across tables where students, grandparents, and children sit—each absorbed in their own world of discovery. Libraries serve as vital educational resources that benefit people of all ages and backgrounds, allowing them to experience things from anywhere. Unlike shopping centres, which are primarily commercial spaces, libraries provide free access to books, the internet, and educational programs. They support literacy, learning, and personal growth, which are essential for a well-informed and empowered community. Replacing a library with a shopping centre ~~prioritizes~~ [prioritises] consumerism over education and sends a message that knowledge and public service are less important than profit.

#2 Let us not forget the library's critical role in nurturing mental health, fostering inclusivity, and bridging social divides. Libraries like ours gracefully offer a safe, inclusive, and quiet space where people can gather, study, or simply enjoy a peaceful environment—something bustling, loud, chaotic shopping centres are not designed to provide. They are especially important for children, students, the elderly, and people who may not have access to quiet or internet-connected spaces at home. Unlike commercial areas, libraries do not require people to spend money to exist in the space. Removing that free and open access harms the most vulnerable members of the community.

#3 While shopping centres may generate short-term economic gains, libraries are a long-term investment in the health and cohesion of the community. While shopping centres are like completing puzzles- short term satisfaction, libraries are like relationships, requiring nurture but building stronger supports for the future. In this haven of the future, they host workshops, job training, literacy ~~programs~~ [programmes], and cultural events that contribute to personal development and social well-being. You may have doubts but remember this; the economic benefits of a well-educated and engaged population far outweigh the temporary boost a new shopping centre might provide. In the long run, preserving the library supports a more sustainable and enriched future for everyone.

Please, let us find an alternative solution—be it renovation, relocation of services, or better urban planning. How can we sleep peacefully at night, knowing we have demolished stained glass that has ~~overwatched~~ [watched over] decades of children and knowledge, knowing we have destroyed a hub of the future? I call upon your integrity, your vision, and your humanity. Do not let the silence of bulldozers replace the laughter

of children. Do not let our legacy be reduced to a cold, sterile, inhumane building devoid of knowledge and a façade to hide ~~of~~ [the] lack of education and love. I must thank you for taking the time to read this heartfelt plea. I trust you will do what is right—for the library, for the community, and for the generations yet to come.

Yours sincerely,

Ryan Khov