

Writing Feedback

TERM 1 2025 | DAY 2 WRITING | 15th April

Section 1:

#1: Paragraph 1 Strengths: Your emotive language effectively establishes an urgent tone. Your metaphors depicting the library as "the very soul of our community" and "a sanctuary for the curious" create powerful imagery. Weakness: Lack of specific supporting evidence → Your opening relies heavily on emotional appeals without concrete facts that would strengthen your argument. The rhetorical questions at the end ("Have you truly considered...?") could be more effective if paired with specific data about the library's usage or historical significance. Exemplar: *"As a lifelong resident who has witnessed our library serve over 15,000 community members annually according to the Regional Library Association's 2023 report, I urge you to reconsider this deeply disheartening decision."*

#2: Paragraph 2 Strengths: Your vivid imagery of the library's potential destruction creates an emotional impact. The contrasting imagery between books and consumerism effectively highlights what's at stake. Weakness: Excessive sentimentality → The paragraph relies too heavily on emotional appeals without balancing them with logical arguments. Phrases like "pages fluttering like fallen leaves in a harsh wind" and "collective soul" might alienate council members seeking practical reasons for preservation. Exemplar: *"With the library's demolition, we would lose not only a historic building dating back to 1892, but also a vital educational resource that currently serves 43% of our community's students who lack adequate study spaces at home, according to last year's Education Department survey."*

#3: Paragraph 5 Strengths: Your economic argument comparing short-term versus long-term benefits shows thoughtful consideration of council priorities. The puzzle/relationship metaphor effectively illustrates the different values of shopping centres versus libraries. Weakness: Unsupported claims → Your assertion about the economic impact of an educated population lacks specific evidence. The comparison between shopping centres and libraries would be more persuasive with concrete examples or authoritative sources. Exemplar: *"Research published in the British Journal of Urban Planning (2022) demonstrates that communities with accessible libraries show a 27% increase in literacy rates and a 15% boost in local employment outcomes compared to those without such facilities."*

■ Your piece demonstrates passion and genuine concern for preserving your community library. To strengthen your argument, you need to include specific statistical evidence that demonstrates the library's impact. Also, try balancing emotional appeals with logical reasoning by incorporating expert opinions from educators or community leaders. Additionally, addressing a counterargument about economic benefits of the shopping centre would make your letter more comprehensive and persuasive. Your metaphors are vivid, but some sections become overly descriptive at the expense of concrete information. Consider replacing some emotional descriptions with factual details about the library's services, usage statistics, or historical significance. Be sure to maintain a respectful tone throughout, recognizing the council's difficult position while firmly advocating for your cause.

Overall Score: 43/50

Section 2:

Library-

For 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 this institution, I feel compelled to highlight its unparalleled contributions to education and community unity. Have you truly considered what we are sacrificing in the name of so-called "progress"? More importantly, what message are we sending to the next generation when we tear down places of learning to make room for parking lots and profit?

#2 As we stand on the brink of allowing our cherished library—an enduring testament to our history—to be torn down for the allure of a shiny new shopping centre, we must pause to reflect on the profound losses this decision entails. With 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, silenced forever, we would lose a vital part of our community's character. Imagine the shelves, once brimming with stories and ideas, stripped bare, their cherished volumes ripped from their sanctuaries, pages fluttering like fallen leaves in a harsh wind, only to be replaced by aisles of toys and trinkets. Can we truly justify sacrificing our collective soul for fleeting ~~consumerism~~, ~~jeopardizing~~ [consumerism? Are we jeopardising] a space that has nurtured imagination, connection, and growth for generations?

#1 I urge you to consider the transformative experiences I have been fortunate enough to enjoy at our library. When I walk through the tall, arched wooden doors, I am enveloped by the comforting scent of aging paper and polished oak. Sunlight filters gently through the stained-glass windows, creating a kaleidoscope of ~~colours~~ [colours] across tables where students, grandparents, and children—all absorbed in their own worlds of discovery—come together. Libraries serve as indispensable educational resources for people of all ages and backgrounds, allowing access to knowledge and learning opportunities that transcend socioeconomic barriers. Unlike shopping centres, 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 consumerism over education and sends a troubling message that knowledge and public service are secondary to profit.

Let us not forget the library's critical role in nurturing mental health, fostering inclusivity, and bridging social divides. Libraries like ours offer a safe, inclusive, and quiet space where individuals can gather, study, or simply enjoy a moment of peace—something that bustling, chaotic shopping centres are inherently designed not to provide. For many—especially children, students, the elderly, and those without access to quiet or internet-equipped spaces at home—our library is a lifeline. Unlike commercial areas, libraries cater to the free and unencumbered exchange of ideas, and their removal will disproportionately affect the most vulnerable members of our community.

#3 While shopping centres may promise short-term economic gains, libraries represent a long-term investment in the health and cohesion of our community. Shopping centres are like puzzles; they ~~only offer only~~ [only offer] temporary gratification, while libraries are like enriching relationships requiring nurture but that strengthen the very fabric of our society. In this haven of knowledge, they host workshops, job training, literacy programs, and cultural events that contribute to personal development and social well-being. It is crucial to remember that the economic impacts of an educated and engaged population

far outweigh the fleeting boost a new shopping centre might provide. In the long run, preserving our library supports a more sustainable and enriched future for everyone.

Therefore, I implore you: 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 the stained-glass windows that have withstood decades of laughter and learning? I call upon your integrity, vision, and humanity. Do not let the cacophony of bulldozers drown out the joyful laughter of children. Do not let our legacy be a cold, sterile edifice devoid of knowledge, a mere façade that conceals a lack of education and community spirit. Thank you for considering this heartfelt plea. I trust that you will act in the best interest of the library, the community, and the generations yet to come.

Yours sincerely,

Ryan Khov