

Writing Feedback

DAY 6 | HOLIDAY WRITING HOMEWORK

Section 1:

#1: *"A playground is an essential part of the community; it allows for students to get recess exercise, establish friendships, and learn invaluable social skills for a growing and changing student body."*

Strengths:

- Strong opening that establishes the importance of playgrounds
- Connects playground functionality to multiple benefits for students

Weakness: Incomplete development → Your introduction presents good points but doesn't fully develop the connection between these benefits and the specific playground needing renovation. The statement would be more powerful if you directly linked these universal benefits to your specific situation.

Example improvement: *"Our school playground serves as the heart of our community; it provides essential exercise opportunities during recess, fosters meaningful friendships, and develops crucial social skills that our growing student body needs—benefits that are currently compromised by deteriorating conditions."*

#2: *"The swings creak with no one on them, the slide is faded and rough, and there are many areas of the playground that show disrepair. Where there used to be sounds of laughter and energy on a warm day now is a boring, unsafe, and unappealing place to spend playtime."*

Strengths:

- Excellent use of sensory details that help visualize the playground's condition
- Effective contrast between past vibrancy and current state

Weakness: Limited sensory engagement → While you've included auditory and visual elements, your description could benefit from more sensory details to create a more compelling image for the council member. The personification of swings "creaking" is a good start for figurative language.

Example improvement: "The metal swings groan in protest even when empty, the once-smooth slide now feels like sandpaper against children's legs, and the acrid smell of rust permeates areas throughout the playground that show obvious disrepair. The space that once buzzed with laughter and energetic chatter on warm days has transformed into a desolate, unsafe wasteland that children actively avoid during playtime."

#3: *"We intend to add new equipment in exchange for outdated options, resurface areas that are cracked and present safety issues, and include equipment that boasts sensory integration options, as well as shaded seating options."*

Strengths:

- Clear presentation of specific renovation plans
- Good variety of improvements addressing multiple needs

Weakness: Lack of persuasive justification → Your renovation plans are listed without connecting them to specific benefits or explaining why these particular improvements deserve council support. You need stronger justification for why these specific changes matter.

Example improvement: "Our comprehensive renovation plan includes replacing outdated equipment with modern alternatives designed for all abilities, resurfacing cracked pavement that currently poses serious trip hazards, and installing sensory integration features that would make our playground the first truly inclusive play space in our district—changes that would directly benefit over 500 local children daily."

Your piece shows promise in its structure and intent, but needs more depth in its persuasive elements. The email would benefit from clearer connections between problems and proposed solutions. Additionally, while you've included some good descriptive language, your figurative language could be strengthened to create more emotional impact. Your closing arguments about development are strong but could be better connected to specific actions you want the council member to take.

Also, the email format requires more attention to detail—you've included a subject line but are missing proper salutation closings and your specific request for inspection isn't clearly stated. While you've adapted your language for a formal audience, you could be more explicit about what specific action you're requesting from the council member.

■ Overall, your piece presents a worthy cause but needs stronger persuasive elements to convince the council member to act. The email would benefit from more vivid sensory descriptions and emotional appeals linked to children's wellbeing. You need to clarify exactly what you want the council member to do—inspect the playground, provide funding, or support your renovation plans in some other way. Your arguments about safety and developmental benefits are strong foundations, but require more specific evidence or examples to truly resonate. Try structuring your email to clearly identify the problem, explain consequences, present your solution, and end with a specific call to action.

Overall Score: 38/50

Section 2:

Subject Line: Danger to Students – The Old Playground

Dear Council Member,

#1 A playground is an essential part of the ~~community~~ [community]; it allows for students to get recess exercise, establish friendships, and learn invaluable social skills for a growing and changing student body. However, with the current condition of the playground, students leave frustrated, and even worse, ~~there~~ [they] come back with safety concerns. And they are not the only ones. It's easy to see how much rust coats any equipment- so much so that I had to write an email to you about it. As School Leader of The Committee Council, everyone came with their concerns.

Students have come to me expressing their concerns about the equipment and cracked pavement or lack of play structures that encourage play. #2 The swings creak with no one on them, the slide is faded and rough, and there are many areas of the playground that show disrepair. Where there used to be sounds of laughter and energy on a warm day now is a boring, unsafe, and unappealing place to spend playtime.

Studies have shown that play and physical exercise contribute greatly to the cognitive and emotional development of children. Therefore, a renovated playground not only provides students with access to active play, but also teaches them about teamwork, group

collaboration, problem-solving, and overcoming ~~Obstacles~~ [obstacles]. Without a renovation attempt, students are basically left with a playground set that does not meet their developmental needs and recreational desires.

#3 We intend to add new equipment in exchange for outdated options, resurface areas that are cracked and present safety issues, and include equipment that boasts sensory integration options, as well as shaded seating options. Not only will this create a safe, inclusive, inviting atmosphere of play, but constant engagement from students of all ages.

~~Furthermore, a safe playground will encourage healthy developments within a school community that values such holistic growth.~~ [Furthermore, a safe playground will encourage healthy development within our school community, which values such holistic growth.] This will ensure that the playground is used for its natural intentions and fosters not only physical inclusion, but also emotional stability, as students are able to play, destress, and recharge during critical downtime. They deserve refuge that is comfortable and safe for their well-being.

Yours sincerely,

[Your Name]

School Leader of The Committee Council