

Section 1:

#1 (First paragraph) Strengths: Your opening establishes the location clearly and identifies the environmental issue affecting the creek. You blend factual information from the EPA with descriptive language. Weakness: Inconsistent tone → Your opening sentence uses an exclamatory, clickbait-style headline followed by statistics without context, then shifts to more formal journalistic writing. This creates confusion about the article's voice and approach. Phrases like "The once beautiful and eye-catching streams now radiate the faint scent of death" feel disconnected from the more measured tone that follows. ***The pollution of Silverwater Creek represents an environmental crisis that threatens both wildlife and local residents, with contaminant levels now exceeding safety thresholds according to recent EPA findings.***

#2 (Second paragraph) Strengths: You attempt to incorporate storytelling by introducing a personal narrative that illustrates the creek's deterioration over time. Weakness: Undeveloped character → The personal story about Ben Dover feels superficial and contains inappropriate language ("traumatic 14-year-old"). The narrative doesn't effectively build emotional connection as it lacks authentic details about his experience and abruptly shifts between past and present. The phrase "Soon, the streams show off its death at the hands of humans" uses confusing imagery without specific details. ***Ben, a local teenager who grew up playing in the creek, returned recently to find his childhood swimming spot unrecognisable—the clear waters now brown and murky, with rubbish accumulating along the banks where he once splashed with his father.***

#3 (Middle section - causes and implications) Strengths: You identify specific causes of pollution and include expert testimony to validate your points. The explanation of industrial waste and runoff sources is informative. Weakness: Limited evidence → While you mention the environmental and health impacts, you don't provide specific statistics or examples to substantiate these claims. Phrases like "fish populations have dwindled" and "increase in respiratory issues" lack numerical data or case studies that would strengthen your argument and demonstrate the scope of the problem. ***According to recent surveys conducted by the NSW EPA, fish populations in Silverwater Creek have decreased by 67% over the past decade, while local medical centres report a 23% increase in***

respiratory complaints from residents living within 500 metres of the most contaminated sections.

■ Your feature article addresses an important local environmental issue and includes some key elements required in the prompt. The structure follows a logical flow from problem identification to potential solutions. However, your piece would benefit from more consistent storytelling techniques throughout rather than concentrating them at the beginning. The expert voices you've included need more development—consider adding credentials, longer quotes, or follow-up perspectives to make them more authoritative. Additionally, the statistical information feels generic rather than specific, which reduces the impact of your argument. Your conclusion offers a call to action, but you could strengthen it by providing concrete examples of how local clean-up initiatives have succeeded elsewhere. Also, work on developing a more coherent voice throughout—sometimes your writing shifts between alarmist and academic tones. Try reading your piece aloud to ensure the transitions between paragraphs flow naturally and maintain reader engagement from beginning to end.

Score: 41/50

Section 2:

Silverwater Creek - The END of Clean Water?!

95% of water in ~~the~~ silverwater creek is polluted by plastics, dirt and mud. The once beautiful and eye-catching streams now radiate the faint scent of death ~~carries~~ [that carries] from the waters. Silverwater Creek, flowing through the western suburbs of Sydney, has suffered relentless pollution over the years. Industrial waste, urban runoff, and illegal dumping have transformed its waters into a murky, contaminated stream, unrecognizable from its former pristine state. According to a recent report by the New South Wales Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), the creek's pollution levels have reached critical thresholds, posing dangers to both aquatic life and nearby residents. #1

~~Lets~~ [Let's] follow Ben Dover, a ~~traumatic~~ [troubled] 14 ~~year-old~~ [year-old]. He remembers a time when he used to play in the crystalline streams, swimming and splashing ~~his~~ [with his] father. Just a few days ago he came to the ~~silverwater~~ [Silverwater] creek. ~~Guess what he found his beloved stream in?~~ [What did he find his

beloved stream had become?] Rubbish piling on the bank, the once ~~intrepid~~ [clear] water now brown as dirt. Soon, the streams show off ~~its~~ [their] death at the hands of humans. #2

Dr. Mike Raphone, an environmental scientist at the University of Sydney, warns, "The presence of heavy metals and chemical pollutants in Silverwater Creek is not just an ecological disaster; it's a serious public health concern. If we don't intervene soon, we risk irreversible damage."

The pollution in Silverwater Creek is a consequence of unchecked industrial activity and improper waste management practices. Factories and warehouses in the surrounding areas discharge waste into the creek, violating environmental regulations. Additionally, stormwater runoff carries toxic residues from roads, pesticides from gardens, and microplastics into the water.

The implications of this pollution are devastating. Fish populations have dwindled, birds that once relied on the creek for sustenance have migrated elsewhere, and the natural filtration system of the waterway has collapsed. Residents living near the creek have reported an increase in respiratory issues, skin conditions, and other health concerns potentially linked to exposure to contaminated water and air. #3

Silverwater Creek's pollution crisis has ignited fierce public debate, with local activists demanding urgent intervention. Environmental groups, including Clean Water Sydney, have staged protests and petitioned government officials to enforce stricter regulations.

However, industry representatives argue that tighter restrictions could harm economic growth. Peter Langley, a spokesperson for a major manufacturing plant near the creek, stated, "While we recognize the importance of environmental conservation, sudden regulatory changes without viable alternatives could put hundreds of jobs at risk."

Despite these concerns, momentum is building for reform. The NSW government has pledged an additional \$10 million towards creek rehabilitation, including improved waste disposal monitoring and investment in ecological restoration.

Silverwater Creek does not have to remain a cautionary tale. Countries like Denmark and Canada have successfully rejuvenated polluted waterways through rigorous environmental policies, community-led restoration efforts, and corporate accountability. Sydney can follow suit if businesses, residents, and lawmakers collaborate to enforce stronger pollution controls and invest in sustainable infrastructure.

As Dr. Watson aptly puts it, "Environmental responsibility isn't an option; it's a necessity. Silverwater Creek can be revived, but only if we act now."

Every resident has a role in saving Silverwater Creek. You can support local clean-up initiatives, advocate for stricter environmental laws, and push companies to adopt greener practices. By making informed choices, such as reducing plastic use and properly disposing of waste, each person can contribute to reversing the damage.

Silverwater Creek has witnessed decades of neglect, but hope is far from lost. The question now is—how will we choose to rewrite its future?