Writing Feedback

TERM 2 - 2025 | WEEK 7 - Writing | Year 5 Scholarship Essentials

Section 1:

#1 Strengths: Your vivid sensory details create powerful imagery. Your metaphors comparing wilderness challenges to everyday life effectively highlight your main argument.

Weakness: Inconsistent audience targeting \rightarrow Your opening paragraph addresses readers directly with "Have you ever felt..." but then shifts to discussing children in third person. For example, when you write "How can we expect our children to develop a new lense..." it creates confusion about who your primary audience is. This makes it difficult for readers to connect consistently with your message throughout the piece.

Exemplar: Have you ever felt the triumph that sizzles through your veins when standing atop a mountain? Such experiences develop resilience and perspective in ways screens never can, which is why children need wilderness experiences to develop these crucial life skills.

#2 Strengths: Your use of a real example (Mei) strengthens your argument. You effectively contrast wilderness challenges with classroom complaints.

Weakness: Underdeveloped supporting evidence → While you mention Mei's experience, you don't fully explore how her perspective changed beyond schoolwork seeming easier. The statement about "hands covered in cuts, blood seeping out" doesn't clearly connect to your point about perspective change. Your evidence would be more convincing with specific details about how Mei's thinking or attitudes changed after her wilderness experience.

Exemplar: After spending two weeks in the wilderness, Mei reported that her entire outlook had shifted. Not only did schoolwork seem more manageable, but she also developed greater appreciation for everyday comforts and found herself more willing to help others through challenges, demonstrating how wilderness experiences reshape perspective.

#3 Strengths: Your paragraph on resilience uses powerful imagery. The example of Maya provides a concrete illustration of your point.

Weakness: Logical inconsistency \rightarrow You state that 8-year-old Maya spent "a month in the wilderness alone" which contradicts reasonable safety practices for children. This undermines your credibility. Additionally, the bear attack scenario seems extreme and might distract readers from your overall message about building resilience through manageable challenges.

Exemplar: During a guided wilderness program, 8-year-old Maya faced numerous challenges that tested her limits. When confronted with a particularly difficult climbing section, she later shared that before the program, she would have given up immediately. However, after building resilience day by day in the wilderness, she persisted and conquered the obstacle.

■ Your piece shows passion for the topic of wilderness experiences for children. To strengthen your writing, focus on maintaining a consistent tone throughout—either formal or conversational, but not both. Also, consider your audience carefully. Are you writing for parents, educators, or fellow students? This will help you craft more targeted arguments. Your examples would be more powerful if you provided more specific details about how wilderness experiences changed the children's behaviours or attitudes in everyday life. Try to create clearer connections between your examples and your main points about perspective, resilience, and cooperation. Additionally, you could improve the structure by ensuring each paragraph focuses on just one main idea with supporting evidence. For your conclusion, consider adding a specific call to action for your readers, such as suggesting practical ways they can incorporate wilderness experiences into children's lives.

Score: 43/50

Section 2:

Have you ever felt the triumph that sizzles through your veins along with the sheer sense of accomplishment and pain when you stand atop a mountain, each blistered finger, each muscle that protest with a spark of agony, each exhausted breath uncovering the veil of not just the outside of you, but your character and perspective. #1 How can we expect our children to develop a new lense of looking at the world, resilience and cooperation when their life is dominated by flashing screens which will never be able to compare with the wilderness. [How can we expect our children to develop a new lens for viewing the world, resilience and cooperation when their lives are dominated by flashing screens that will never compare with wilderness experiences?] Screens can never give the experience of feeling a splinter dig deep into flesh, each movement sparking pain. Screens can never give the experience of feeling adrenaline course through your veins as you rustle across trees, hearing the bear's heavy footsteps following you, its malicious eyes glaring at you while your legs pound onto the underbrush below, each step reverberating into your skull. Screens can never give the experience of feeling your hands being scraped bloody from setting up camp, an inadequate shelter that will not be able to keep out the heavy pieces of hail as they crash into the tent, each one a reminder of your isolation. It is imperative that we allow children to experience the wilderness in order to develop a new perspective, resilience and cooperation.

First and foremost, it is adamant [essential] that we let children experience the wild, as it can grant their perspective the ability to change and grow. #2 After being in the wild for 2 weeks, Mei, a 12 year old student, stated that all of her schoolwork seemed much easier than before, after realising how challenging surviving in the wilderness could be, and how much energy it could drain out of you compared to a school day. When you are in a situation where your hands are covered in cuts, blood seeping out of them, it's a stark contrast of how students who haven't experienced the wilderness

grumble simply about not knowing a maths problem. This can positively impact the lense [lens] of which you view things, assisting in personal growth. It is clear that wilderness experiences can greatly boost your perspective.

Secondly, these wilderness experiences can also demonstrate the resilience forged by them. After spending months in the wilderness, your heart becomes an iron core, fueled by determination. When adolescents cower beneath towering mountains, that is where true resilience is created, not in classrooms. #3 When 8 year old Maya spent a month in the wilderness alone and got attacked by a bear, she confessed afterwards that before going out there, she would have stopped and accepted her fate. However, after building bricks of resilience every day she spent, resulting in a house that would keep her safe. Her instincts told her to run, and she gasped for air, terrified but feeling the adrenaline powering through her veins. [Her instincts told her to run, and she gasped for air, terrified yet empowered by the adrenaline coursing through her veins.] After scrambling up a bumpy tree with limited handholds, she miraculously evaded the bear. Therefore, there is no doubt that resilience is not forged through classrooms; it is constructed in the wilderness.

Finally, it can hugely benefit cooperation. On your first day, can you imagine just getting shoved into the wilderness, nothing changed about you? Due to the fact that the changes only start becoming visible after an extended period of time, having to set a shelter up by yourself would be quite challenging. However, according to a group of year 6 [Year 6] boys who had experienced the wilderness for 4 weeks, they all had to work together to set up shelter for the first night and keep each other warm. It didn't matter if one of them bullied the other one for fun; it mattered about survival. In conclusion, it is obvious that cooperation can be formed in classrooms, but in [it] can be more strongly experienced in the wilderness.

To summarise, having a wilderness experience can greatly boost and change your perspective, resilience and cooperation. Character is not forged by lazing around while checking your email. If you truly want to develop character, you must take the hard road, even if it is filled with pain and agony. However, you will find that the cuts and bruises will mean nothing in the long run when success is yours because of what a wilderness experience taught you, not a screen or words on a chalkboard.