

Section 1:

#1 Strengths: Your piece uses powerful sensory details to create vivid imagery of wilderness challenges. Your description of hanging from a cliffside with "bleeding hands" and "burning lungs" effectively conveys physical hardship.

Weakness: Paragraph structure → The paragraph jumps abruptly between different scenarios without clear connections. For instance, you move from describing someone hanging on a cliff to suddenly plummeting down without explaining why. This creates confusion for readers trying to follow your narrative. The transition between the cliff-hanging scenario and the broader point about decision-making skills lacks clarity.

Exemplar: ***Instead of jumping between scenarios, you could write: "Imagine your fingers grasping onto a steep cliffside, your hands bleeding from the strain. In this moment, you must make a critical decision: continue climbing despite the pain or find another path. This exemplifies how wilderness experiences force you to develop essential decision-making skills."***

#2 Strengths: Your piece effectively uses questions to engage readers and introduces research evidence to support your claims about teamwork benefits.

Weakness: Supporting evidence development → While you mention a study from the University of Sydney, you don't fully explain how the statistics connect to your specific examples of teamwork in the wilderness. The statistic about "49 percent" gaining cooperation skills needs more context to be meaningful. Your examples of teamwork (assembling tents, building rafts, foraging) are mentioned but not developed with specific details about how these activities build teamwork.

Exemplar: ***"A 2013 University of Sydney study found that 49 percent of teenagers who participated in wilderness activities developed significantly stronger cooperation skills. For example, when teenagers work together to build a shelter using only natural materials, they must communicate effectively, delegate tasks based on individual strengths, and solve problems collaboratively."***

#3 Strengths: Your conclusion effectively summarises the main arguments presented throughout the piece and reinforces the importance of wilderness experiences for teenagers.

Weakness: Repetition without expansion → Your conclusion restates points made earlier without adding new insights or addressing potential counterarguments. The phrase "henceforth, wilderness experiences are paramount" introduces a conclusion, but then simply lists benefits already discussed without synthesising them into a compelling final thought or call to action for readers.

Exemplar: ***"Wilderness experiences transform teenagers by challenging them physically and mentally in ways that classroom settings cannot replicate. By facing genuine challenges in natural***

environments, young people develop resilience, teamwork, and decision-making skills that prepare them for future challenges in education, careers, and relationships."

■ Your piece shows passion and enthusiasm for wilderness experiences, which comes through in your vivid descriptions of physical challenges. To improve the content, consider developing a more balanced perspective by acknowledging that different approaches might work for different teenagers. Also, your argument would be stronger if you included specific examples of how wilderness skills transfer to everyday life situations. For instance, you could explain how decision-making in the wilderness helps with academic or career choices later. Additionally, try to vary your sentence structure more—you often use very long sentences with multiple clauses. Breaking some of these into shorter, punchier sentences would create better rhythm and make your points clearer. Your introduction could also benefit from a more specific thesis statement that outlines exactly what benefits you'll be discussing in the essay, rather than just stating that wilderness experiences are important.

Score: 44/50

Section 2:

Don't you think that the teenagers of today are heavily mollycoddled, their eyes glued to screens? Are you sick of them squandering valuable time lazing around and mindlessly staring at their phone, eating packets of chips? Aren't you fed up with your kids just sitting around, attached to their devices and nagging at you for money to buy some useless game tokens? If so, wilderness extremes and experiences will erase all those happy and cuddly thoughts of lying around with a phone in your hand and ~~instil~~ [instil] treacherous thoughts of self doubt before vanquishing a mountain peak, your hands calloused and bruised from sharp stones slitting their greasy palms. Out in the wilderness, it's you versus everything, whether it be sharp gales of wind driven rain, or treacherous mountain climbs that require immense focus and resilience as your hands are dotted with blisters and your legs burning from hours upon hours of struggling. This can embed teamwork in your mind and give you a fighting spirit tougher than steel.

#1 Imagine your chubby little fingers grasping onto the steep cliffside of a mountain, your hands bleeding from hanging on and your lungs burning. Crystal shards of rain penetrate your sweaty skin and your legs dangle over a sixty ~~meter~~ [metre] deep plummet. Your heart races and your muscles are shouting in excruciating pain. ~~You have one choice, jump. You plummet down the cliff, your stomach churning and spine tingling.~~ [Faced with exhaustion, you make the difficult decision to descend. As you carefully lower yourself down the cliff, your stomach churns and your spine tingles.] The icy water hits you like a bullet, your hair soaked and shoulders aching like never before. Decision making, it's the core of essential skills. Wilderness experiences are the perfect way to instigate decision making skills and they teach valuable lessons for the future. Out in the wild, it is solely a matter of life or death and each decision is crucial for survival. Back home, the only decisions you ever make are really what junk

food to order for lunch but in the wilderness, you have to fend for your meals, you have to savour every last bite. Out in the wild, nothing comes easily at your doorstep, everything that is done can't be reversed, and you have to choose what you do. This is why it is vital to participate in wilderness camps.

#2 When the word teamwork is uttered, what comes to mind? Perhaps gruellingly assembling a tent and scavenging for wood with your peers to build a raft. Or perhaps roasting food with an open fire and foraging for resources that are quintessential for your survival. This is what teamwork looks like in the wild and it is crucial to be able to thrive with peers. In the wild, teamwork is invaluable and is the bedrock upon which strong rapport is built and can aid significantly in learning to obtain valuable materials and resources in the wild. In 2013, a study from the ~~university~~ [University] of Sydney concluded that 49 percent of all teenagers who actively participated in wilderness activities gained significantly more cooperation skills and also, ~~people have come back from the wild with an increased mentality and self-esteem.~~ [participants returned from wilderness experiences with enhanced mental wellbeing and improved self-esteem.] As we all know, without teamwork and peers that cooperate with you, living in the wilderness is no easy feat. ~~Only once you have collaborated with your teammates, you will accomplish a life skill that will never be forgotten.~~ [Through collaborating with teammates in the wilderness, you develop life skills that remain valuable long after the experience ends.]

Have your arms ever gave in to the immense pressure of setting up camp and have your hands ever bled from the true work of establishing a camp to reside in for the night? Have you ever experienced the crushing doubt that swarms your mind before you scale mountains that are covered with crevices and crannies that give way lighter than sand? Have you ever questioned your choices halfway into a treacherous run only to pursue the victorious thought of completing such an intensive task? Wilderness experiences not only build a strong sense of self achievement when completing highly arduous tasks, but provide grit that stays with you forever. It's your fighting spirit that keeps you going in the toughest of times. Your mentality in the wild is not to give way to curveballs, but tackle them and vanquish your doubtful thoughts. Your mind will instantly adapt to the tough environment and will prosper from the idea of success even though hardships came your way.

#3 ~~Henceforth~~ [Therefore], wilderness experiences are paramount in ensuring that teenagers grow physically and mentally stronger, they understand the true meaning of teamwork, and they allow complex decision making skills for the future. Research also has proven that wilderness experiences enhance understandings of cooperation and resilience. This is why wilderness experiences are vital in the lives of teenagers and children to incorporate a true understanding of ourselves and invaluable skills that stick with us forever.