

Section 1:

**#1 "When did we decide that safety meant sheltering young people from challenges? That protection meant keeping them indoors, always behind screens, disconnected from the earth beneath their feet? How can we expect them to be strong if they've never felt weak? To be brave if they've never been afraid?"**

Strengths: Your opening rhetorical questions effectively engage the reader and establish your position on wilderness experiences. The contrasting imagery between indoor screen time and outdoor connection is vivid.

Weakness: Unsupported claims → Your opening makes broad assumptions about how young people are being raised without providing evidence. The questions imply that all young people are sheltered and disconnected from nature, which oversimplifies a complex issue.

Exemplar: *"While many young people today spend increasing amounts of time indoors with technology, research suggests that exposure to natural challenges provides crucial developmental opportunities that cannot be replicated in controlled environments."*

**#2 "True bravery isn't hiding in safety. It's coming out and experiencing challenges to their face. When the rain won't stop, when the trail disappears, when they have to rely on their team to get through. These aren't just outdoor experiences for fun, they are teaching young people lessons in life. Struggles in the wilderness mirror the challenges of life, things don't always go the way you plan, you must adapt to it and keep moving forward."**

Strengths: Your connection between wilderness challenges and life lessons is compelling. The examples of rain and disappearing trails provide concrete scenarios that readers can visualise.

Weakness: Underdeveloped ideas → While you mention that wilderness experiences teach life lessons, you don't fully explore the specific character traits or skills developed. The paragraph makes claims about mirroring life challenges but doesn't fully connect these to tangible outcomes.

Exemplar: *"True bravery develops when young people face genuine challenges in nature, such as persevering through unexpected rain or navigating when trails become unclear. These experiences build specific life skills like adaptability, problem-solving and resilience that serve them in future academic, personal and professional situations."*

**#3 "Research on wilderness adventure therapy programs highlights their effectiveness in engaging young people struggling with difficult life circumstances by providing opportunities for personal growth, building relationships, and developing social skills."**

Strengths: You introduce evidence-based support by referencing research, which strengthens your argument about the value of wilderness experiences.

Weakness: Lack of specific details → Your reference to research is vague and doesn't provide specific studies, findings, or examples. Without concrete evidence, this point lacks persuasive power and depth.

Exemplar: *"Studies from outdoor education programs in Queensland show that wilderness adventure therapy significantly improves participants' self-confidence, with 78% of young people reporting enhanced problem-solving abilities and stronger peer relationships after completing structured outdoor challenges."*

■ Your piece presents a passionate case for wilderness experiences in character development, but would benefit from more structured development of your key points. The flow between paragraphs could be improved by arranging your ideas in a more logical sequence—perhaps starting with the research evidence, then exploring specific character traits developed, and concluding with your call to action. Your writing would be more convincing if you included specific examples of wilderness programs and their outcomes. Also, consider balancing your position by acknowledging potential concerns about wilderness experiences while still making your case. Try adding brief stories or scenarios that illustrate your points about perseverance and accountability. You might also strengthen your argument by connecting wilderness experiences to broader educational objectives or life success metrics. Adding a thoughtful conclusion that ties your main points together would give your readers a clear takeaway message about why these experiences matter.

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**Score: 40/50**

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Section 2:

Wilderness Experiences Necessary for Developing Character in Young People

#1 When did we decide that safety meant sheltering young people from challenges? That protection meant keeping them indoors, always behind screens, disconnected from the earth beneath their feet? How can we expect them to be strong if they've never felt weak? To be brave if they've never been afraid?

Research on wilderness adventure therapy programs highlights their effectiveness in engaging young people struggling with difficult life circumstances by providing opportunities for personal growth, building relationships, and developing social skills.

When a young person sets out into the wilderness, there is no Wi-Fi, no instant solutions, and no safety net of their daily lives. Lighting a fire in the cold, navigating rough terrain, or carrying their own gear

across miles of unfamiliar ground ~~require~~ [requires] more than just the ability to walk long distances, it also requires perseverance, decision-making, and trust.

Outdoors, they face real consequences. If they don't prepare for it, they go without it. For example, if they forget their raincoat, they get wet. These experiences might seem harsh, but they are incredibly valuable and ~~are~~ [become] crucial. They teach personal accountability in a way that no other places can ~~teach~~ [provide].

#2 True bravery isn't hiding in safety. It's coming out and experiencing challenges ~~to~~ [face to] their face. When the rain won't stop, when the trail disappears, when they have to rely on their team to get through. ~~These aren't just outdoor experiences for fun, they are teaching young people lessons in life.~~ [These outdoor experiences aren't merely recreational; they teach young people valuable life lessons.] Struggles in the wilderness mirror the challenges of life, ~~things~~ [circumstances] don't always go the way you plan, you must adapt to ~~it~~ [them] and keep moving forward.

#3 If we want to have resilient and confident individuals, we must stop ~~preventing for~~ [mistaking sheltering for] protection. Let them fall. Let them struggle. Let them have troubles. It is through struggles that they ~~get~~ [develop] bravery, through discomfort that they become strong.