Writing Feedback

TERM 2 - 2025 | WEEK 8 - Writing | Year 5 Scholarship Essentials

Section 1:

#1 Strengths: Your introduction effectively establishes the contrast between car-filled and car-free environments. Your thesis statement clearly presents three main arguments that structure the essay.

Weakness: Lack of specific context \rightarrow Your introduction presents a generalised scenario without mentioning specific cities or statistics. This makes your argument less compelling. The phrase "Many cities are now turning busy roads into spaces just for people who walk or ride bikes" would be stronger with examples of which cities are doing this.

Exemplar: Cities like Melbourne, Barcelona and Copenhagen are transforming busy roads into pedestrian-only zones, creating places where people can walk freely without car fumes or traffic noise.

#2 Strengths: You effectively use a real-world example (Oslo) with a specific statistic (35% reduction in pollution) to support your argument. You clearly explain the health benefits of reduced air pollution.

Weakness: Limited exploration of health impacts → While you mention breathing benefits, you don't fully explore other health advantages of car-free zones. The sentence "Children could run around without coughing so much, and older people could go outside without feeling sick" could be expanded to include benefits like increased physical activity and exercise.

Exemplar: When cities create car-free zones, people naturally walk more, improving their fitness and heart health, while also enjoying cleaner air that reduces asthma attacks and breathing problems.

#3 Strengths: Your conclusion effectively uses a metaphor comparing cities to bodies that need to breathe. You offer a balanced view by acknowledging that not all cars need to be banned.

Weakness: Underdeveloped practical solutions \rightarrow Your conclusion lacks specific suggestions for how cities could implement car-free zones. The phrase "we can make smart choices" is vague and could benefit from concrete examples of what these choices might be.

Exemplar: We can transform our cities by creating car-free zones on weekends, building proper bicycle lanes separated from traffic, and offering better public transport options that make leaving the car at home easy and convenient.

■ Your piece presents a passionate argument for car-free zones in cities, and you've included some good examples to support your points. To strengthen your writing, you could add more specific details about how car-free zones work in different cities. Also, try to include more varied evidence types – perhaps add quotes from city planners or residents who have experienced these changes. Your paragraphs could be more balanced in length and detail. The paragraph about Vauban in Germany is strong because it

shows real results, but other paragraphs could use similar concrete examples. Try to connect your ideas more clearly between paragraphs using linking words like "furthermore" or "in addition". You might also consider addressing a possible counter-argument, such as concerns about access for people with disabilities or businesses needing deliveries, and explain how these challenges can be solved in car-free zones.

Score: 44/50

Section 2:

Imagine walking down a street where you don't hear loud cars or smell dirty smoke. Instead, you hear birds singing, children laughing, and you can breathe fresh air. Many cities are now turning busy roads into spaces just for people who walk or ride bikes. This change helps everyone live in a cleaner, safer, and happier place. #1 I believe cities should make more car-free roads because they help keep us healthy, make the streets safer, and bring people together.

When there are fewer cars, there is less dirty smoke in the air. This makes it easier for people to breathe. In one city called Oslo, after they made some roads car-free, the air pollution went down by 35%. That means people weren't breathing in as much harmful gas. #2 Children could run around without coughing so much, and older people could go outside without feeling sick. The air started to smell cleaner, and people felt better. Car-free roads help everyone stay healthier.

Doctors who take care of sick people say car traffic can make us feel stressed and unwell. Dr. Samuel Ortiz is a brain doctor who says that loud traffic sounds and dirty air can make people tired, give them headaches, and make it hard to sleep. When a city in Japan stopped cars from driving on some roads during the weekend, people said they slept better and felt more calm. Instead of hearing car horns and engines, they heard birds, wind, and people talking happily. That kind of peace makes a big difference.

Some cities have already changed their streets, and it works! In Germany, there's a neighbourhood called Vauban where most cars are not allowed. After the change, kids played outside more, people sat on benches and talked, and shops had more customers. Before, people stayed indoors because the streets were noisy and unsafe. Now, the air smells like flowers instead of car smoke, and people enjoy being outside together. This shows that car-free roads make cities better for everyone.

#3 Cities full of cars are like bodies that can't breathe—they are tired, noisy, and unhealthy. But when we take away some of the cars, it's like giving the city fresh air again. People can walk safely, talk to each other, and enjoy clean air. We don't need to ban all cars, but we can make smart choices. If we turn more roads into spaces for people, our cities will be quieter, safer, and much happier places to live.