

Section 1:

#1 "Week 8 Writing Homework Go Back to Course Writing Prompt: Should urban areas convert more roads into car-free zones, prioritising pedestrians and cyclists?"

Long-time past in the city of Sunnyvale, where clouds-kissing skyscrapers and stars-filled gardens bloomed with flowers of every colour, lived a ten-year-old boy named Felix Sun. With his uncontrollable black hair that bounced like uncultivated grass in the wind and starry blue eyes that shone like stars, Felix possessed two things that made him well-liked: his limitless amazement at what was happening about him and his big dreams."

Strengths: Your opening establishes an enchanting setting with vibrant imagery like "clouds-kissing skyscrapers" and introduces Felix with memorable physical characteristics.

Narrative focus → Your piece begins with the writing prompt but shifts immediately into a narrative without addressing the argumentative nature of the question. → The prompt asks for a position on urban car-free zones, but your response launches into a fictional story about Felix without establishing a clear connection to the argumentative task. Consider opening with a brief position statement before transitioning to your narrative example.

Exemplar: *While I believe urban areas should create more car-free zones for the safety and enjoyment of all citizens, I'll share the story of a boy named Felix who discovered this truth in the magical city of Sunnyvale.*

#2 "Felix explained what it would be like to pedestrianize and cyclize Sunnyvale—have crowded streets shut down to cars so families can stroll freely without worry and children can play freely without scanning around nervously every two seconds.

Mr. Tortoiseworth nodded sagely. "A marvellous notion! Imagine streets filled with laughter instead of revving engines! Why not have a party? With your friends you can turn this dream into reality!"

Felix thought for a while. Then smiling, Felix pedalled off on his bright blue bike again—gears in his brain whirring as fast as his wheels!"

Strengths: Your dialogue effectively conveys the central argument through a creative character interaction, and you use figurative language like "gears in his brain whirring" to enhance the narrative.

Character development → The talking tortoise appears suddenly without sufficient context or explanation. → Mr. Tortoiseworth enters the story abruptly with little introduction, making the fantasy element feel disconnected from the realistic elements of the narrative. Consider introducing fantasy

elements more gradually or establishing clearer rules for your story world to help readers follow the shift in reality.

Exemplar: *Felix often imagined the animals in Sunnyvale Park could understand his thoughts. Today, as he shared his frustrations aloud, he was delighted when wise old Mr. Tortoiseworth, the park's famous hundred-year-old tortoise and unofficial mascot, seemed to nod in agreement.*

#3 "And so little Felix came to learn not only how powerful dreams are but how important it is to freely share those dreams—and to discover friends willing to stick with each other and create worlds worth living within together too.

For sometimes it's just believing hard enough—and pedalling forward boldly regardless of what danger or setback lies ahead!"

Strengths: Your conclusion provides a meaningful message about community action and perseverance that connects to the broader theme of civic engagement.

Argument resolution → The ending lacks specific benefits of car-free zones that were demonstrated through the narrative. → While your story shows a successful campaign to create car-free zones, the conclusion focuses on general lessons about dreams and friendship rather than reinforcing the specific advantages of pedestrianised areas that were experienced. Connect your conclusion more directly to the argumentative prompt by highlighting the positive outcomes of the car-free zones in Sunnyvale.

Exemplar: *With the new car-free zones, Felix and his friends discovered a transformed Sunnyvale where children played safely in streets filled with laughter instead of exhaust fumes, proving that urban spaces designed for people rather than vehicles create healthier, happier communities for everyone.*

■ Your piece shows wonderful creativity and enthusiasm through its imaginative storyline and colourful characters. To strengthen it, focus on making the connection between your narrative and the argumentative prompt clearer. The story of Felix is engaging, but you could improve it by including more specific examples of how car-free zones benefit the community. For instance, when describing the transformed streets, mention reduced pollution, increased physical activity, or stronger neighbourhood connections. Also, consider balancing your fantasy elements with realistic details about urban planning. The talking tortoise is charming but might distract from your argument without proper context. You might try framing the story as Felix's imagination or a dream sequence. Finally, throughout your piece, ensure each event in the narrative builds towards answering the prompt question rather than just telling an entertaining story. With these adjustments, your creative approach will more effectively address the argumentative task while maintaining its delightful charm.

Score: 41/50

Section 2:

~~Long-time past~~ [Long ago] in the city of Sunnyvale, where ~~clouds-kissing~~ [cloud-kissing] skyscrapers and ~~stars-filled~~ [star-filled] gardens bloomed with flowers of every colour, lived a ten-year-old boy named Felix Sun. With his uncontrollable black hair that bounced like uncultivated grass in the wind and starry blue eyes that shone like stars, Felix possessed two things that made him well-liked: his limitless amazement at what was happening ~~about~~ [around] him and his big dreams.

Felix loved cycling on his bike along Sunnyvale's hilly roads. He felt the breeze rushing past him as he cycled faster than a cheetah on super duper fast roller skates! But there was one thing that always made him frown—a swarm of loud screaming cars whizzing by, honking angrily like mad geese fighting for something. The roads had grumpy drivers who barely even noticed him going by.

One afternoon, ~~as-careening~~ [while careening] around the neighbourhood park filled with the scent of freshly cut grass and daisies in bloom, Felix skidded to a stop on the corner of Maple Avenue. He sighed as he watched cars inching along like snails through molasses. "Why can't we have more space for ~~us-types~~ [people like us]?" he grumbled aloud. ~~These cars are so careless and boring.~~ [These cars are so careless and boring.]

#1 And then, ~~springing out from behind a tree, came an unsuspecting form~~ [an unexpected figure sprang out from behind a tree]—a wise old tortoise named ~~San~~ Mr. Tortoiseworth! He was wearing spectacles on his nose and a bowtie made of leaves and generally looked very spiffy.

"Hello there, young dreamer!" exclaimed Mr. Tortoiseworth, slowly smiling as if to indicate that he knew all sorts of things ~~up his shell~~ [hidden in his shell] about life. "What troubles your heart?"

Felix explained what it would be like to ~~pedestrianize and cyclize~~ [create pedestrian and cycle-friendly areas in] Sunnyvale—have crowded streets shut down to cars so families can stroll freely without worry and children can play freely without scanning around nervously every two seconds.

#2 Mr. Tortoiseworth nodded sagely. "A marvellous notion! Imagine streets filled with laughter instead of revving engines! Why not have a party? With your friends you can turn this dream into reality!"

Felix thought for a while. Then ~~smiling~~ [smiling], Felix pedalled off on his bright blue bike again—gears in his brain whirring as fast as his wheels!

After dinner that evening—when spaghetti wrapped itself around forks like snakes performing waltz steps—Felix broke out his master plan to Mom and Dad.

"Seriously, can we do it?" Mom asked skeptically as Dad raised an eyebrow over his plate.

"Let's give it a go!" Felix exclaimed. ~~"If we show everyone how wonderful it would be to walk or cycle somewhere instead of driving everywhere!"~~ ["We can show everyone how wonderful it would be to walk or cycle somewhere instead of driving everywhere!"]

And with that, he had a mission: Operation Car-Free Dream Task!

The next day in school, over lunch beneath rustling leafy oak trees, Felix gathered all sorts of friends—Lila with rosy pigtails who loved to paint rainbows; Sam whose tricks on his skateboard appeared to bounce off the laws of gravity; Leo who had an amazing knack for ~~editing~~ [building] forts out of whatever they could find; even shy Kimberly came along clutching her sketchbook of pretty nature scenes unmarred by concrete jungles.

With crayons flying above paper in shining sun (and crumbs of sandwiches scattered around!), they produced colorful posters declaring their vision: "Sunnyvale Should Be For Everyone!" They drew pictures filled with smiling kids playing hopscotch on ~~sidewalk-lined~~ [sidewalks lined] with flowers instead of parked cars blocking their way—and bicycles riding smoothly down sunny streets.

Next came the greatest challenge of them all—Great Presentation Day! They were to give their pitches at City Hall in front of Mayor Thompson himself—a man whose beard looked amazingly like puffy cotton candy!

And as they nervously stood before adults with stern faces (and neckties that looked thinner than drumheads), Lila spoke first. She spoke of joy blooming when humans walked together rather than being trapped in metal coffins known as automobiles.

Then Sam ~~practising~~ [practised] skateboard tricks and Leo ~~building~~ [built] an imaginary fort right on stage out of cardboard boxes they had brought with them—all as Kimberly painted around them scenes of happy families on bikes cycling through sunny green parks with not a worry!

Finally it was Felix's turn to speak. His heart ~~starting~~ [started] pounding at the speed of light. He bit his nails in fear. Then he spoke...

~~Imagine," he cried in his impassioned voice as he waved out into the sunlight-bathed Maple Avenue above them all... "Imagine that we surrendered our streets to playfields where laughter fills the air instead of engines roar."~~ ["Imagine," he cried in his impassioned voice as he waved toward the sunlight-bathed Maple Avenue above them all, "that we surrendered our streets to playfields where laughter fills the air instead of engines roaring."]

Then, after what had seemed to be an eternity but had actually only taken a couple of short moments ~~later~~ —they breathed.

Mayor Thompson cleared his throat slowly before speaking again—the room was quiet enough you could hear crickets chirping outside in the midst of murmurs agitating softly within hearts.

~~"A wonderful idea!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!" exclaimed Mayor Thompson smiling widely now! "Let us create pilot car-free zones everywhere throughout Sunnyvale this summer!"~~ ["A wonderful idea!" exclaimed Mayor Thompson, smiling widely now. "Let us create pilot car-free zones throughout Sunnyvale this summer!"]

Clapping resounded throughout City Hall ~~ringing joyfully along corridors embracing change newly just out of reach!~~ [ringing joyfully along corridors as they embraced the change that was now within reach!]

~~With summer coming round with the heat & sunshines galore—the roads became magical cities that sprinkled everywhere with colourful works of art created by members of society in celebration of freedom found in common—it then became evident just how much every voice truly mattered when all working toward common goals shining all the brighter with fellowship ties strengthened powerfuller again.~~ [When summer came round with heat and sunshine galore, the roads transformed into magical spaces sprinkled everywhere with colourful works of art created by community members in celebration of their newfound freedom. It became evident just how much every voice truly mattered when all worked toward common goals, shining brighter with strengthened fellowship ties.]

~~From there on every sun day became super adventures that existed just beyond doorsteps beckoning everyone forth to venture forth new roads to explore in waiting to be discovered continued.~~ [From then on, every Sunday became an adventure that existed just beyond doorsteps, beckoning everyone to venture forth and explore new roads waiting to be discovered.]

#3 And so little Felix came to learn not only how powerful dreams are but how important it is to freely share those dreams—and to discover friends willing to stick with each other and create worlds worth living within together too.

For sometimes it's just believing hard enough—and pedalling forward boldly regardless of what danger or setback lies ahead!