

Section 1:

#1 "I believe that, for the school garden, a great scent of flowers is a must. Great smells keep children calm and relaxed by slowing down stress. Additionally, the sweet fragrance of flowers releases chemicals such as dopamine and serotonin which make you happy like a happy human having heaps of fun."

Strengths:

- You've included scientific information about how scents affect mood and brain chemicals.
- Your enthusiasm for the project comes through clearly in your writing.

Weakness: Underdeveloped reasoning → While you mention that scents can reduce stress and release chemicals, you don't fully explain how this specifically benefits the school environment. The comparison "happy like a happy human having heaps of fun" is repetitive and doesn't add new information. You could strengthen this by connecting these benefits directly to school performance or specific school scenarios.

Exemplar: ***Great smells keep children calm and relaxed by reducing stress, which could help students concentrate better during lessons. Research shows that pleasant fragrances can release chemicals such as dopamine and serotonin in our brains, improving our mood and potentially enhancing learning outcomes.***

#2 "As well as the sweet fragrance of flowers, a beautiful school is also important. Visitors would love to see a beautiful garden full of lovely plants. Imagine if you were visiting a new school you haven't gone to. What would you be expecting the school to look like? Obviously to expect it to look beautiful. That's exactly what visitors coming to this school would expect."

Strengths:

- You effectively use a rhetorical question to engage the reader.
- You consider the perspective of visitors to the school, showing awareness of different audiences.

Weakness: Circular reasoning → Your paragraph repeats the idea of beauty without providing specific details about what makes a garden beautiful or why beauty matters beyond visitor expectations. The statement "Obviously to expect it to look beautiful" assumes agreement without providing compelling reasons. You could enhance this by describing specific visual elements and connecting beauty to school pride or community reputation.

Exemplar: *Visitors would appreciate seeing a colourful garden full of native Australian plants arranged in creative patterns. A well-maintained garden creates a positive first impression that reflects our school's values and shows we take pride in our learning environment.*

#3 "Finally, it helps the environment to get better by lowering carbon dioxide which is a greenhouse gas-that means it absorbs a lot of heat which makes our climate hotter. But, How? Well, just like how we humans breathe in oxygen and breathe out carbon dioxide, plants do the opposite. They have cells that suck in carbon dioxide and let out oxygen. That's why plants help the environment."

Strengths:

- You've included accurate scientific information about photosynthesis.
- You've used an effective comparison between human and plant respiration.

Weakness: Disconnected conclusion → While you explain the process well, you don't directly connect this environmental benefit to the school context. How would a school garden's environmental impact be meaningful? What scale of impact could it have? The last sentence doesn't fully tie the environmental benefit back to your proposal.

Exemplar: *Our school garden would serve as both an environmental contribution and a living laboratory where students could measure the plants' growth and calculate their carbon absorption, combining science lessons with real environmental action right on our school grounds.*

■ Your letter shows great enthusiasm for your garden idea, but could be strengthened with more specific details. Consider mentioning what types of plants you would include in the garden and where it would be located on school grounds. You might also want to add how students could be involved in creating and maintaining the garden. This would show the principal that you've thought carefully about implementation. Additionally, your reasons for wanting a garden are good starting points, but could be developed further by explaining how each benefit connects to school goals like improved learning or student wellbeing. Try to be more specific about the size of garden you're proposing and perhaps include a rough estimate of setup costs to show you've considered the practical aspects. Also, think about addressing potential concerns the principal might have, such as maintenance during school holidays.

Score: 40/50

Section 2:

Title: The School Garden

Dear Principal,

I've heard about the student idea contest. I came up with the idea of a school garden. A school garden would be great because of the great scent, to make the school more beautiful and so the environment gets better.

#1 I believe that, for the school garden, a great scent of flowers is a must. Great smells keep children calm and relaxed by slowing down stress. Additionally, the sweet fragrance of flowers releases chemicals such as dopamine and serotonin which make you happy ~~like a happy human having heaps of fun~~ [like students enjoying their favourite activities].

As well as the sweet fragrance of flowers, a beautiful school is also important. Visitors would love to see a beautiful garden full of lovely plants. Imagine if you were visiting a new school you haven't gone to. ~~What would you be expecting the school to look like? Obviously to expect it to look beautiful.~~ [Wouldn't you hope to see an attractive, well-maintained environment?] That's exactly what visitors coming to this school would expect.

#3 Finally, it helps the environment to get better by lowering carbon dioxide which is a greenhouse gas[—]that means it absorbs a lot of heat which makes our climate hotter. But, ~~How~~[how]? Well, just like how we humans breathe in oxygen and breathe out carbon dioxide, plants do the opposite. They have cells that ~~suck-in~~ [absorb] carbon dioxide and ~~let-out~~ [release] oxygen. That's ~~why plants help~~ [how plants benefit] the environment.

That's why I deserve to get that 100 dollars.