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Writing Feedback
TERM 2 - 2025: HOLIDAY | Day 2 - Writing Homework | 10-Day Intensive Writing
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Section 1:

#1 Howdy, howdy! The sun's heat glazed upon my eyes. My face was wrinkled and crimson red from the extreme heat. Working here felt like 6 months in self prison. My hair was covered in the dryness of this heat, while my eyes were red bearing the pain that came across.

Strengths: Your vivid description of the character's discomfort in the heat creates a strong sensory experience. The crimson red face and wrinkled skin effectively convey the extreme conditions.

Sentence structure \rightarrow Your opening includes repetitive descriptions of heat effects without varying sentence patterns. This creates a choppy reading experience where similar ideas stack together rather than flow naturally. Phrases like "the dryness of this heat" and "red bearing the pain" could be more precisely worded to create clearer imagery.

My face was wrinkled and crimson red from the merciless outback sun that had turned my hair to straw and my eyes to painful, bloodshot orbs.

#2 After 2 hours of unstoppable search, we took a pause to wash my loyal companion. We scrubbed his skin with the rotten molded water buried in soil. I then took a break gasping the air out of my mouth. Sitting on an old grey stone felt like sitting in a boling pool of the sun.

Strengths: Your writing creates a clear sequence of events and shows the character's desperation through actions like using poor-quality water. The simile comparing the stone to a "boling pool of the sun" is creative.

Word choice → Several terms used don't quite fit the context or create confusion for the reader. "Unstoppable search" doesn't clearly convey whether the search was relentless or couldn't be halted. "Rotten molded water" contains contradictory descriptors as water doesn't typically rot or mold. "Gasping the air out" reverses the expected action of taking air in when gasping.

After two hours of relentless searching, we paused to refresh my loyal companion. We dampened his skin with murky water we dug from beneath the soil. I slumped down, panting heavily, onto an ancient grey stone that scorched like the surface of the sun itself.

#3 Suddenly a large and insightful crocodile bounced out of the water and tried attacking my steed. A rush of panic gulped down my throat as I used a stick for self defense. I could hear him scream in fear as he watched me throw the stick. The crocodile then vanished into thin air. I then dragged my emu to the other side ensuring we would be safe.

Strengths: Your action sequence creates tension and shows the character's protective relationship with the emu. The quick reactions demonstrate the character's resourcefulness in a dangerous situation.

Logical flow \rightarrow The events in this paragraph happen too quickly without sufficient detail to make them believable. The crocodile is described as "insightful" (suggesting intelligence) but then "vanishes into thin air" without explanation. The emu's scream comes after the stick is thrown rather than during the attack, and the resolution happens too easily without a realistic conclusion to the threat.

Suddenly, a massive crocodile lunged from the water towards my steed. My throat tightened with fear as I frantically grabbed a sturdy stick for defence. My emu shrieked in terror while I jabbed the stick towards the predator's snout. The crocodile retreated beneath the murky surface, disappearing from view. With trembling hands, I guided my emu to the opposite bank where we might find safety.

■ Your piece shows great creativity in developing an unusual setting with a cowgirl and emu partnership. The relationship between the character and her companion creates a touching emotional core. To improve your writing, try slowing down important moments to build tension. For instance, when you describe finding water after hours of searching, this could be a moment to really highlight the relief and joy felt by both characters. Also, make sure your descriptions use words that fit together logically—terms like "insightful crocodile" and "rotten molded water" create confusion rather than clear pictures. You might benefit from reading your story aloud to hear where sentences sound awkward or where the action moves too quickly. Focus on giving your reader enough details to picture each scene clearly. Your story has a strong foundation with its unique characters and harsh setting, but needs more careful attention to how events unfold naturally.

Score: 42/50

Section 2:

Howdy, howdy! The sun's heat glazed upon my eyes. My face was wrinkled and crimson red from the extreme heat. Working here felt like 6 months in self prison [solitary confinement]. My hair was covered in the dryness of this heat, while my eyes were red bearing the pain that came across. #1

I whistled with my lips attached calling my fellow friend, the emu. Unlike most cowgirls handling a horse with the luxurious rich hair and the shiny polished skin, I handled a colossal emu. His fur was parehed and unadorned [dry and plain]. I steadily jumped up on his sun baked skin and relaxed my hands on the tip of his neck.

Then we were ready to head in search of water! Finding water here was impenetrable [nearly impossible] considering the climate. After 2 hours of unstoppable [relentless] search, we took a pause to wash my loyal companion. We scrubbed his skin with the rotten molded [stagnant, muddy] water buried in soil. I then took a break gasping the air out of [panting hard to catch] my breath. Sitting on an old grey stone felt like sitting in a boling [boiling] pool of the sun. #2

Looking at the condition of my companion filled me with pity. Its [His] face was dried out and torn by the pieces of sun [harsh sunlight]. His eyes were sulking as they surrounded [showed] red boundaries.

I attached a brown old thread to my emu and connected it to me. That way I did all the walking and trudging [struggling] against soil. I've already asked a lot from him, so now I was going to give my share. I gasped out breaths [for air] and cried silently to myself every time I went uphill. I really needed to shut my eyes and lie in a pool of ice.

Both me and my companion needed to rest for even 30 seconds. 4 hours of walking and we finally made it to Crowberry lake. It wasn't full of hygiene or properly unblemished [clean or pristine] but it was definitely enough to fill our thirst and bounce us back up for our journey back. We have never felt so refreshed in these 5 hours of life.

Suddenly a large and insightful [massive, watchful] crocodile bounced out of the water and tried attacking my steed [emu]. A rush of panic gulped down [surged through] my throat as I used a stick for self defence. I could hear him scream in fear as he watched me throw the stick. The crocodile then vanished into thin air [disappeared beneath the surface]. I then dragged my emu to the other side ensuring we would be safe. #3

I glanced back at my faithful steed [companion] and plastered a smile. After a long search, my companion found us some raw crispy bugs. I threw them gently in the lake, cleaning and disinfecting the poison. I put my bare feet in the lake as I munched on the delicious and scrumptious bugs of course with my emu!!