

Section 1:

#1 - Opening paragraph with statistics and hook question **Strengths:** Your piece effectively uses a concrete statistic from Clean Up Australia to establish credibility and create a strong foundation for your argument. The rhetorical question at the end creates engagement and draws readers into the environmental concern you're addressing.

Lack of source integration → The statistic feels disconnected from the rest of the paragraph because there's no smooth transition between the data and your hook question. The phrase "Did you know that even a tiny speck of plastic can cause a huge problem to the world?" appears suddenly without connecting to the 81% figure you've just presented.

Exemplar: *After presenting this statistic, you might write: "This alarming figure reveals how even small plastic items from our daily school life contribute to a much larger environmental crisis."*

#2 - Second paragraph explaining environmental and health impacts **Strengths:** Your writing demonstrates good awareness of multiple consequences by covering landfills, ocean pollution, and human health effects. You've shown understanding that environmental problems are interconnected by mentioning how microplastics travel through the food chain.

Vague impact descriptions → Your explanations lack specific details that would help readers understand the severity of these problems. Phrases like "can cause marine life to be entangled" and "can result in severe health problems" are too general and don't paint a clear picture of the actual consequences.

Exemplar: *Instead of "taking up space," you could write: "occupying valuable land for hundreds of years while slowly releasing toxic chemicals into surrounding soil and groundwater."*

#3 - Third paragraph with solutions for school canteens **Strengths:** Your piece provides practical, achievable solutions that directly address the problem you've identified. The suggestions about reusable containers and working with suppliers show you understand that change requires multiple approaches.

Superficial solution development → Your solutions are listed without explaining how they would actually work or what challenges might arise. The phrase "Schools can even celebrate successes and highlight the positive changes being made" lacks detail about what these celebrations might look like or why they matter.

Exemplar: *Rather than simply stating "encouraging students to bring their own reusable water bottles," you could write: "providing incentives such as discounts for students who consistently use reusable bottles, making sustainable choices more appealing."*

■ Your piece tackles an important environmental issue with a clear structure that moves logically from problem identification to solutions. The use of current Australian data strengthens your argument's relevance and credibility. However, your writing would benefit from deeper analysis of both the problems and solutions you present. Additionally, you could strengthen your argument by explaining the connections between different environmental impacts more clearly. Your solutions section would be more compelling if you provided specific examples of how schools have successfully implemented these changes. Also, consider adding a brief discussion of potential obstacles to implementing these solutions and how they might be overcome. Furthermore, your concluding paragraph could be expanded to reinforce why this issue matters specifically to your school community.

Overall Score: 43/50

Section 2:

#1 According to Clean Up Australia's annual litter report in 2024, single-use plastics comprised ~~of~~ [delete] 81% of the total annual litter collected from Australian schools, and it is estimated that most of the waste ~~were~~ [was] generated from the school canteen. Did you know that even a tiny speck of plastic can cause a huge problem to the world?

#2 Although convenient, single-use plastics pose significant environmental and health problems. A significant amount of single-use plastic waste ends up in landfills, taking up space and potentially releasing harmful substances or breaking down into harmful microplastics. Plastic in the ocean can damage sensitive habitats and can cause marine life to be entangled in plastic debris. Microplastics ingested by marine life can also enter the human food chain. In addition, air pollution caused by single-use plastics can result in severe health problems for humans, such as respiratory and cardiovascular diseases.

#3 School canteens should start promoting sustainable alternatives to plastics to drive environmental change. This can involve using reusable containers, cutlery, and cups, as well as encouraging students to bring their own reusable water bottles. Canteens can also work with their suppliers to source products with minimal or no plastic packaging. Schools can also play a part by educating students and parents about the impact of plastic waste and the benefits of reducing it. Schools can even ~~celebrate successes and highlight the positive changes being made~~ [recognise achievements and showcase meaningful environmental improvements within the school community].

By doing the above, we can reduce plastic waste in the school canteen and contribute to a healthier environment for students and the wider community.