

Section 1:

#1 *"Have you ever wondered where the plastic goes when you throw it in a cafeteria bin? It takes 450+ years to decompose, giving it a long life to harm our environment. For our benefit, we should stop using plastic at cafeterias because it harms our environment, puts animals and humans in danger, and it would cause global warming."*

Strengths: Your opening question effectively engages the reader. Your thesis statement clearly outlines three main arguments against plastic use.

Repetition of "our environment" → Your paragraph mentions "our environment" twice in close succession, which creates redundancy. The repetition weakens your argument's impact and makes your writing less concise. You could strengthen this by using varied vocabulary to describe environmental impact or by expanding on different aspects of environmental harm.

"Have you ever wondered where the plastic goes when you throw it in a cafeteria bin? It takes 450+ years to decompose, contributing to long-term environmental damage. For our collective wellbeing, we should eliminate plastic from cafeterias because it damages ecosystems, endangers wildlife and human health, and contributes to global warming."

#2 *"Picture the sight of you sitting in the lunchroom, but suddenly you see a small plastic shard inside your lunch order. It would truly be a horrifying sight! Research suggests that plastic is responsible for four hundred thousand to one million human deaths each year. Think of an innocent turtle, its once-peaceful life destroyed, choking on a plastic bag that had been mistaken for jelly fish. Do we want our poor and innocent creatures to die like this?"*

Strengths: Your use of vivid imagery helps readers visualise the dangers of plastic. The statistic about human deaths adds credibility to your argument.

Disconnected examples → Your paragraph jumps from plastic in food to death statistics to turtles without clear connections between these ideas. This creates a disjointed reading experience where the reader must work to understand how these examples relate to each other. Try using transition phrases to show the relationship between your examples or organise related points together.

"Picture yourself in the lunchroom when you discover a plastic shard in your meal—a truly alarming experience! This personal danger connects to a broader health crisis, as research suggests plastic exposure contributes to between 400,000 and one million human deaths annually. Beyond humans, marine creatures suffer tremendously, with turtles mistaking floating plastic bags for jellyfish and choking as a result. Is this the fate we wish upon innocent wildlife?"

#3 *"To conclude, while plastic cutlery and materials are cheap and easy to get, these benefits are crushed under the weight of the downfalls of plastic. Instead of plastic, we could substitute it with wooden cutlery because it is more ecofriendly to the world around us. So, the next time you see your cafeteria chefs, maybe you could ask them to pack the food in more environmentally friendly packages."*

Strengths: Your conclusion acknowledges counterarguments about plastic's benefits. You offer a practical alternative solution with wooden cutlery.

Limited action steps → Your conclusion provides only one specific alternative (wooden cutlery) and one vague action step (asking chefs about packaging). This restricts the impact of your conclusion and leaves readers without clear guidance. Consider expanding your conclusion to include more specific, varied alternatives and multiple actionable steps readers can take.

"To conclude, while plastic cutlery and materials are cheap and convenient, these short-term benefits are vastly outweighed by their environmental impact. We can substitute plastic with several alternatives: wooden cutlery, bamboo straws, and paper containers that break down naturally. You can make a difference by bringing your own reusable containers to the canteen, requesting plastic-free packaging when ordering, and encouraging your school to switch to compostable materials through student petitions."

■ Your persuasive piece shows passion for environmental protection, which comes through strongly in your writing. To improve the substance of your argument, try to provide more specific examples of how plastic harms the environment. For instance, you could describe how plastic breaks down into microplastics that enter our food chain. Also, your second paragraph jumps from environmental harm to human health without a smooth transition. You could strengthen your writing by organising your paragraphs around one main idea each—perhaps one paragraph on environmental harm, one on health impacts, and one on climate change. Additionally, your global warming paragraph needs more detail explaining how plastic production and disposal contribute to greenhouse gas emissions. Try to include one or two specific facts in each paragraph to support your claims. Finally, consider expanding your conclusion to offer more alternatives to plastic and specific actions students can take in their daily lives.

Overall Score: 42/50

Section 2:

Why Plastic should not be used in Canteens

#1 Have you ever wondered where the plastic goes when you throw it in a cafeteria bin? It takes 450+ years to decompose, giving it a long life to harm our environment. For our benefit, we should stop using plastic at ~~cafeterias~~ [canteens] because it harms our environment, puts animals and humans in danger, and ~~it would cause~~ [it causes] global warming.

Imagine your house ~~turn~~ [turning] into a pile of trash, when we could have used more environmentally friendly materials and still have lived peaceful lives. Do you want this to be our future? I certainly do not. Scientists predict that in 2050, there will be more pieces of trash than fish in the ocean. And that is only 25 years from now! But as it harms the environment, it does even more damage to our health.

#2 Picture the sight of you sitting in the lunchroom, but suddenly you see a small plastic shard inside your lunch order. It would truly be a horrifying sight! Research suggests that plastic is responsible for four hundred thousand to one million human deaths each year. Think of an innocent turtle, its once-peaceful life destroyed, choking on a plastic bag that had been mistaken for ~~jelly fish~~ [jellyfish]. Do we want our poor and innocent creatures to die like this?

Global warming, the beast that seemed tiny and insignificant once but outlived you the next day. ~~Imagine the souls of innocent polar bears, their skin pressing against their ribs as their natural habitat continues to grow smaller.~~ [Imagine innocent polar bears starving, their skin pressing against their ribs as their icy habitat continues to shrink.] If we don't stop using plastic, then one day global warming will melt the arctic and flood the entire earth.

#3 To conclude, while plastic cutlery and materials are cheap and easy to get, these benefits are crushed under the weight of the downfalls of plastic. Instead of plastic, we could substitute it with wooden cutlery because it is more ~~ecofriendly~~ [eco-friendly] to the world around us. So, the next time you see your cafeteria chefs, maybe you could ask them to pack the food in more environmentally friendly packages.