
Term 3 - 2025: Week 6 - Writing Homework | Year 4 Scholarship

Section 1

#1 (Opening paragraph: "Should our school install solar panels? Every day, our school uses a lot of electricity...")

Strengths: Your opening clearly states the topic and provides a good hook by mentioning everyday school electricity use. You also establish the problem with current energy sources effectively.

Weakness: Lack of thesis statement structure \rightarrow Your opening doesn't clearly preview the main arguments you'll make in your piece. Whilst you mention solar panels as a solution, you don't tell your reader exactly what points you'll cover to support your argument. The phrase "solar energy is eco-friendly, cheap, and will reduce the amount of energy used" needs to be more clearly positioned as your main argument points.

Exemplar: "Installing solar panels at our school would benefit us in three important ways: protecting our environment, saving money for better school resources, and reducing our dependence on harmful energy sources."

#2 (Body paragraph: "Without a doubt, solar panels also save a lot of money...")

Strengths: You provide specific financial figures that make your argument convincing. The examples of how saved money could be spent on school improvements help readers understand the benefits.

Weakness: Repetitive sentence structure → Most of your sentences follow the same pattern, making your writing sound monotonous. Notice how you repeat similar openings and don't vary your sentence lengths enough. The phrase "Imagine walking into a school powered by clean, bright energy" appears twice in your piece, which shows lack of variety.

Exemplar: "Solar panels offer substantial financial benefits. Whilst a typical Australian household saves \$800-\$2,000 annually, schools can achieve even greater savings due to their higher energy consumption."

#3 (Conclusion paragraph: "Therefore, installing solar panels at our school...")

Strengths: You restate your main points and end with a forward-looking statement about the future. Your conclusion ties together the environmental and financial arguments well.

Weakness: Circular reasoning and redundancy \rightarrow Your conclusion essentially repeats the same points you've already made without adding new depth or stronger emphasis. The sentences "It will also save the school thousands of dollars every year" and "saves thousands of dollars annually" say nearly the same thing, whilst "solar energy comes from the sun, which never runs out" repeats information from earlier paragraphs.

Exemplar: "By choosing solar panels, our school would join thousands of Australian schools leading the way toward a sustainable future, whilst simultaneously creating more opportunities for student learning through the money we save."

■ Your piece demonstrates a solid understanding of persuasive writing structure and you've chosen relevant arguments for your audience. However, your content needs more depth and sophisticated development. Your environmental argument could explore specific environmental impacts beyond just "pollution" and "greenhouse gases." Additionally, your third main point about reducing energy consumption essentially repeats your environmental argument rather than providing a distinct benefit.

Your writing would benefit from more varied sentence structures and transitions between ideas. Also, consider developing each paragraph more thoroughly before moving to the next point. For instance, your money-saving paragraph could discuss the long-term investment aspect or compare costs with other school improvements.

Furthermore, your piece needs stronger connections between paragraphs. Words like "furthermore," "additionally," and "moreover" can help link your ideas more smoothly. Your conclusion should also provide a stronger call to action rather than simply restating your points.

Overall Score: 42/50

Section 2

#1 Should our school install solar panels?"Every [Should our school install solar panels?" Every] day, our school uses a lot of electricity for lights, computers, air conditioning, and many other devices. Currently, most of this electricity comes from coal and other nonrenewable [non-renewable] fuels, which pollute the air and harm the environment. However, there is a way to help our Earth. Installing solar panels can provide clean, renewable energy from the sun, which never runs out and does not create harmful pollution. Solar energy is eco-friendly, cheap, and will reduce the amount of energy used.

#2 I strongly believe solar panels should be used in schools because solar panels are eco-friendly. Unlike coal or gas, the sun gives us energy without creating harmful pollution. According to the Australian Renewable Energy Agency, every solar panel helps cut down greenhouse gases that make the Earth hotter. If our school chooses solar power, we will be protecting animals, plants, and people from the dangerous effects of climate change. Don't we all want clean air and a safe planet for the future?

Without a doubt, solar panels also save a lot of money. [Furthermore, solar panels provide significant financial benefits.] A normal Australian household can save between \$800 and \$2,000 a year by using solar power. Since schools use much more electricity, they can save \$20,000 to \$50,000 every year, and some large schools have saved over \$80,000. That money could be spent on new books, sports equipment, technology [educational technology], or improving playgrounds. Solar panels are not only good for the environment, they are smart for our budget too. [but they're also financially advantageous.] Imagine walking into a school powered by clean, bright energy from the sun every day, our classrooms, computers, lights, and playgrounds all running on free, renewable energy. [Picture our school operating entirely on clean solar energy, with classrooms, computers, lights, and playgrounds all powered by renewable sources.]

#3 Since schools use technology all day, having solar panels will reduce the amount of energy used. [Moreover, solar panels significantly reduce our school's reliance on fossil fuel-generated electricity.] The sun gives us free and renewable energy every day, so our school would rely less on electricity made from fossil fuels. Imagine walking into a school powered by clean, bright energy from the sun every day, our classrooms, computers, lights, and playgrounds all running on free, renewable energy. [With solar panels installed, our entire school community would benefit from sustainable, cost-effective energy that supports both learning and environmental responsibility.] Installing solar panels is not just a choice, it is a step toward a brighter, smarter, and cleaner future for everyone at our school.

Therefore, installing solar panels at our school is the smartest choice we can make. Solar energy protects the environment, saves thousands of dollars annually, and provides a renewable source of power that never runs out. It will also save the school thousands of dollars every year that could be used to improve learning, buy new equipment, and make our school a better place for everyone. [These financial savings could fund educational improvements, new equipment, and enhanced facilities that benefit our entire school community.] Unlike coal and other nonrenewable [non-renewable] fuels, solar energy comes from the sun, which never runs out and does not harm the planet.