

Section 1:

#1: "As the thick waft of the beach's salty ocean waves seeped through my nose, the hush of the gentle sounds of waves lapping against each other rocked me to sleep."

Strengths:

- Your opening creates a peaceful mood using sensory details about smell and sound
- You've included descriptive words like "thick waft" and "gentle sounds" to help readers imagine the scene

Weakness: Unclear sensory description → When you write "thick waft...seeped through my nose", this doesn't quite work because smells don't usually "seep through" noses—they're breathed in or detected. The phrase makes it sound like something is physically going through your nose rather than you smelling it. Also, "thick waft" is confusing because "waft" means a light gentle movement of air, which contradicts "thick".

Exemplar: *As I breathed in the salty ocean air, the gentle sounds of waves lapping against each other nearly rocked me to sleep.*

#2: "Its enormous blue fin poked out of the ocean like a sharp pencil, trying to stab several people."

Strengths:

- Your comparison of the fin to a pencil helps readers picture the sharp, pointed shape
- You've built tension by showing the danger to the people in the water

Weakness: Unclear comparison → Your comparison says the fin is "like a sharp pencil, trying to stab several people". This makes it sound like the pencil itself is trying to stab people, which is confusing. The problem is that you're mixing two ideas—the pencil comparison and the stabbing action—in a way that doesn't make sense. Is the fin like a pencil, or is it stabbing? The connection between these two thoughts isn't clear.

Exemplar: *Its enormous blue fin poked out of the ocean like a sharp blade, cutting through the water towards several people.*

#3: "As though I had an eye at the back of my head, I sensed a sign behind me announcing that the beach was closed."

Strengths:

- You've tried to create an interesting way to describe noticing something behind you
- The detail about the beach closing helps move the story forward

Weakness: Illogical description → The phrase "as though I had an eye at the back of my head" doesn't make sense here because you're describing sensing a *sign*—something you read with your eyes. Signs need to be seen, not sensed. Having an eye at the back of your head would mean seeing the sign, not sensing it. The confusion is that "sensing" usually means feeling or noticing something without seeing it, but signs must be read visually.

Exemplar: *When I turned around, I noticed a sign announcing that the beach was closed.*

■ Your piece tells an interesting story about a frightening beach incident, and you've included important details like the girl's reaction and the shark's fin. However, your writing would benefit from clearer connections between ideas. Right now, some parts jump from one thought to another without smooth links. For example, you move quickly from being asleep to hearing a scream, then to spotting the shark, without showing how these moments connect. Additionally, your ending feels rushed—you mention never going to beaches again, but you haven't shown us enough about how this event truly affected you emotionally. To strengthen your piece, spend more time developing your reactions and feelings throughout the incident. Also, in your opening paragraph, you switch from describing a peaceful scene to introducing the scream, but these ideas need a smoother connection. Try using words like "suddenly" or "without warning" at the start of a new sentence to help readers follow your thoughts. Finally, your conclusion would be stronger if you explained more deeply why this event changed your view of beaches—what specific thoughts or fears now stop you from returning?

Overall Score: 40/50

Section 2:

~~As the thick waft of the beach's salty ocean waves seeped through my nose~~ [#1 As I breathed in the salty ocean air], the ~~hush of the~~ gentle sounds of waves lapping against each other ~~rocked~~ [nearly rocked] me to sleep. Suddenly, an ear-piercing shriek echoed across the entire beach. "AHHHH!"

I scanned ~~around~~ the entire beach, trying to locate the point where the scream originated ~~from~~ [had come from]. After a few seconds~~there it was~~ [, I spotted the source]. A young girl, her hands on her head, mouth open in a large circle, stared into the ocean. I tried to pinpoint exactly where she was looking. It was a shark. ~~Its enormous blue fin poked out of the ocean like a sharp pencil, trying to stab several people.~~ [#2 Its enormous blue fin poked out of the ocean like a sharp blade, cutting through the water towards several people.]

I immediately sprinted towards the little girl, wondering what had really happened. A thousand thoughts rushed ~~to~~ [through] my mind. 'Did her sibling get eaten by a shark? Was the girl just scared?' Before I reached ~~there~~ [her], my eyes caught several red specks surrounding the girl. As I reached the girl, tall and imposing ~~life guards~~ [lifeguards] were questioning what had happened. All they could get out of her was, "Shark. Eat. Person."

~~As though I had an eye at the back of my head, I sensed a sign behind me announcing that the beach was closed.~~ [#3 When I turned around, I noticed a sign behind me announcing that the beach was closed.] As I slowly shuffled back to my belongings, thoughts of despair ~~had started flowing~~ [started flowing] through. Now, all that came to mind was, 'What would the young girl do if that was her family member?' Ever since that incident, I ~~had~~ decided to stay away from all beaches.