Term 3 Holiday - 2025: Day 1 | 10-Day Intensive Selective Writing

#### Section 1:

#1: "CRASH! The space ship scraped the lush green grass turning what was once vibrant aqua to now gloomy and dull."

#### Strengths:

- Your opening grabs attention with the loud sound effect "CRASH!" which immediately pulls readers into the action.
- You've created a clear visual transformation, showing how the spaceship's landing changed the grass from one state to another.

**Awkward sentence structure** → Your sentence tries to do too much at once, making it confusing to follow. The phrase "vibrant aqua to now gloomy and dull" doesn't clearly connect to what you're describing. Aqua typically describes a blue-green colour like water, but you're talking about grass, which makes the colour choice puzzling. Additionally, the entire sentence runs on without proper breaks, cramming the crash, the scraping action, and the colour change all together. This makes readers work too hard to understand what's happening.

Exemplar: CRASH! The spaceship scraped across the lush green grass. The once vibrant blades turned dull and lifeless beneath its weight.

#2: "A small bulky astronaut peered his head out and sauntered inquisitively around the landscape to try and find an answer where he was."

# Strengths:

- You've described the astronaut's movement with the interesting verb "sauntered," which shows he's moving casually and slowly.
- Your description tells us the astronaut is trying to work out his location, which sets up a sense of mystery.

**Confusing word choice** → The phrase "small bulky" creates a contradiction because small and bulky work against each other—something can't really be both at the same time. Also, "peered his head out" is an odd construction; you peer with your eyes, not your head. The ending phrase "find an answer

where he was" sounds unnatural and clumsy. In English, we'd typically say "figure out where he was" or "discover his location."

Exemplar: A bulky astronaut poked his head out and walked inquisitively around the landscape, trying to figure out where he had landed.

# #3: "The flowers danced when the wind slightly blew them and also gave an aromatic smell."

# Strengths:

- You've used personification with "danced," which brings the flowers to life and creates a pleasant image.
- You're engaging another sense (smell) beyond just sight, which enriches your description.

Repetitive sentence pattern → This sentence follows the exact same structure as your previous ones: subject does action A "and" subject does action B. Your whole piece uses this pattern repeatedly, making the writing feel choppy and predictable. Additionally, "slightly blew them" is awkward phrasing—wind doesn't blow flowers; wind blows, and flowers move as a result. The phrase "gave an aromatic smell" is also unnecessarily wordy when you could simply say the flowers "smelled sweet" or were "fragrant."

Exemplar: As the wind blew gently, the flowers danced and released a sweet, fragrant scent into the air.

■ Your piece creates an interesting science fiction scene with a spaceship landing in an unfamiliar place. You've thought about including sensory details like sound, sight, and smell, which shows you understand that good descriptive writing appeals to multiple senses. However, your writing would benefit from varying your sentence structures. Right now, almost every sentence follows the same pattern: something happens "and" then something else happens. This makes your writing feel repetitive and monotonous, like a list of events rather than a flowing story. Additionally, you need to choose your descriptive words more carefully to make sure they actually make sense together. When you say the grass is "vibrant aqua," readers might picture blue water instead of green grass. Think about what colours and descriptions truly match what you're trying to show. Your verbs are quite strong in places—words like "sauntered" and "danced" add personality—but make sure the rest of each sentence

supports these word choices. Also, consider breaking up some of your longer sentences into shorter ones to create better rhythm and help readers follow your ideas more easily. Finally, think about showing the astronaut's emotions or reactions more directly. Instead of just telling us he's looking around inquisitively, you could show us what he notices or how he reacts to what he sees.

Overall Score: 35/50

#### Section 2:

#1 CRASH! The space ship scraped the lush green grass turning what was once vibrant aqua to now gloomy and dull. [CRASH! The spaceship scraped across the lush green grass. The once vibrant blades turned dull and lifeless beneath its weight.]

#2 A small bulky astronaut peered his head out and sauntered inquisitively around the landscape to try and find an answer where he was. [A bulky astronaut poked his head out and walked inquisitively around the landscape, trying to figure out where he had landed.]

#3 The flowers danced when the wind slightly blew them and also gave an aromatic smell. [As the wind blew gently, the flowers danced and released a sweet, fragrant scent into the air.]