

Section 1:

#1: Opening paragraph – "Dear Esteemed Members of the Council" through "fostering creativity"

Strengths:

- Your opening hooks the reader effectively by using a thought-provoking question that makes the Council members reflect on their decision
- You clearly establish what libraries mean beyond just being buildings, presenting them as important community spaces

Underdeveloped Purpose Statement → Your opening raises an interesting question, but you don't clearly state what you're asking the Council to do until the very end of your piece. When you write persuasive letters, you should tell your reader early on what specific action you want them to take. Right now, your audience has to read almost the entire letter before understanding whether you want them to stop a closure, increase funding, or reject a particular proposal. Including a clear statement like "I urge you to reconsider the proposed closure of our three local branches" in your first paragraph would make your purpose much stronger.

Exemplar: *"It has come to my concern that the Council is considering closing three of our local libraries to reduce costs. I am writing to urge you to reconsider this decision, as these sanctuaries represent far more than mere buildings."*

#2: Second paragraph – "Within their hallowed walls" through "no screen can replicate"

Strengths:

- You provide multiple reasons why libraries matter, including equal access and helping people who don't have technology at home
- Your sensory details about the rustle of pages and scent of books help readers imagine the library experience

Unbalanced Evidence → Your paragraph mixes two different types of reasons—practical ones (equal access and bridging the digital divide) with emotional ones (the sensory experience)—but you don't

give them equal weight or connect them well. You spend only one sentence on the crucial point about equal access and helping people without technology, then immediately shift to describing feelings and atmosphere. The most convincing part of your argument (that libraries help people who can't afford computers or internet) gets rushed, whilst the sensory descriptions get more attention. To strengthen this section, you could expand on specific examples of who uses library computers and why this matters, then connect how the welcoming physical space makes these services more accessible.

Exemplar: *"Within their walls, libraries provide an egalitarian space where all citizens can access information regardless of background. Single parents can use free computers to search for employment whilst their children attend homework clubs. Pensioners can learn digital skills to connect with distant family. The welcoming atmosphere—with its gentle rustle of turning pages and peaceful reading spaces—ensures these essential services feel inclusive rather than intimidating."*

#3: Third paragraph – "Furthermore, in our quest for progress" through "digital readers"

Strengths:

- You introduce an environmental perspective, which adds a different dimension to your argument
- You use specific vocabulary like "obsolete" and "benignity" that shows sophisticated thinking

Oversimplified Comparison → Your environmental argument presents the issue as though physical books are clearly better than digital devices, but you don't acknowledge the full picture. Whilst you mention that devices become outdated quickly and require rare minerals, you don't consider that printing books also uses resources (paper, ink, transport, storage space) or that one device can hold thousands of books, potentially using fewer resources overall than printing those same books. Your phrase "the longevity of physical books presents a compelling argument" also doesn't address that many library books need replacing after heavy use, and libraries spend money on storage, heating, and maintaining buildings. A stronger argument would acknowledge these complexities and perhaps focus on how libraries can offer both options, letting people choose what works best for them whilst ensuring everyone has access.

Exemplar: *"Furthermore, we must consider environmental sustainability in our choices. Whilst electronic devices require rare minerals and become outdated, libraries can offer both physical and digital options, allowing our community to share resources efficiently rather than each household purchasing individual copies."*

■ Your piece demonstrates strong persuasive intent and shows you understand that effective arguments need multiple supporting reasons. You've included practical points about access and technology alongside emotional appeals about atmosphere and community, which creates variety in your writing. However, your argument would benefit from greater depth in developing each point. Currently, you introduce important ideas—like bridging the digital divide or environmental concerns—but move on before fully exploring them. Your readers need more specific examples and fuller explanations to truly understand why these points matter. Additionally, your piece would be more convincing if you acknowledged potential counterarguments or complexities rather than presenting issues as simple choices. For instance, when discussing the environment, consider both sides briefly before explaining why your position is stronger. Also, your structure could be tightened by stating your main request earlier, so your Council audience knows immediately what decision you're asking them to make. Finally, whilst your conclusion is passionate, connecting your emotional appeals more closely to concrete outcomes (what will actually happen to specific community members if libraries close?) would make your ending more powerful and memorable.

Overall Score: 41/50

Section 2:

#1 Dear Esteemed Members of the Council,

It has come to my ~~concern~~ **[attention]** that as we stand on the cusp of a fully digital era, are we truly prepared to sacrifice the indispensable magic of our physical libraries? These sanctuaries represent far more than mere buildings [;] they are vibrant communal hubs connecting generations, preserving knowledge, and fostering creativity.

#2 Within their hallowed walls, libraries provide an egalitarian space where all citizens, regardless of background, can access a reservoir of information. Moreover, they play a crucial role in bridging the digital divide, offering technological resources to those who would otherwise remain disconnected in our increasingly online world. The gentle rustle of turning pages, the comforting scent of well-loved books, and the peaceful atmosphere create an experience that no screen can replicate.

#3 Furthermore, in our quest for progress, we must consider the environmental impact of our choices. ~~While~~ [**Whilst**] electronic devices become obsolete within years, the longevity of physical books presents a compelling argument for stewardship of our planet's resources. The benignity of a shared book stands in stark contrast to the mining of rare minerals required for digital readers.

Therefore, I implore you to champion the preservation of our libraries [—] irreplaceable institutions that hold not just books, but our shared history and collective future.

Will you join me in ensuring that the tactile and emotional allure of true books remains present for future generations to come?

Exit Ticket:

Physical libraries matter because they are living sanctuaries of knowledge, community, and equal access, where ideas are not just stored but shared, discovered, and made human.