

## Section 1

**#1: Opening paragraph – "Imagine yourself, swimming under crystal clear water with sunshine beaming down on you. Vibrant corals of all different types were blooming next to you and sea turtles were racing with you."**

### Strengths:

- Your opening creates a strong visual picture that helps readers imagine the reef
- You've used good descriptive details like "crystal clear water" and "sunshine beaming down"

**Engaging introduction but needs clearer purpose** → Your opening paragraph draws readers in with beautiful imagery, but it doesn't clearly tell us what your piece will argue or why we should care about the reef beyond it being pretty. The phrase "like it exists" in your title is also confusing – do you mean "while it still exists"? Your introduction would be stronger if you connected the beautiful imagery to a clear statement about why protecting the reef matters. For example, after describing the paradise, you could add a sentence like: "This incredible ecosystem supports thousands of species and protects Australia's coastline, but it needs our help to survive."

**Exemplar: *"The Great Barrier Reef is home to over 1,500 species of fish and protects our coastal communities from storms, but today this natural wonder faces serious threats that we must address."***

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**#2: Second paragraph – "The Great Barrier Reef is one of the most important ecosystems in Australia and shelters many rare marine animals. It provides a home to millions of marine creatures."**

### Strengths:

- You've stated the main point about the reef being an important ecosystem
- You're trying to explain why the reef matters

**Vague details weaken your argument** → Your paragraph tells us the reef is important and provides homes for marine creatures, but you haven't explained exactly why this matters or what specific

problems the reef faces. Phrases like "making the situation worse and worse" and "animals critically endangered" are too general. Which animals are endangered? What specific actions are making things worse? Your writing mentions "floating rubbish" causing coral bleaching, but actually, coral bleaching is mainly caused by warming ocean temperatures, not rubbish. You need to include accurate, specific information to make your argument convincing.

**Exemplar:** *"Rising ocean temperatures have caused three major bleaching events since 2016, killing nearly half of the reef's corals. This threatens creatures like the green sea turtle and the dugong, which depend on healthy coral for food and shelter."*

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**#3: Fourth paragraph –** "Some may say that we can destroy the reef for economic benefits and substitute it with aquariums. While this sounds reasonable, this statement is however false because the aquarium can't give us the natural look, and it will prevent other animals from getting the freedom we got today."

**Strengths:**

- You've tried to address an opposing viewpoint, which shows you're thinking about different perspectives
- You're defending your position

**Weak counter-argument lacks logic** → Your counter-argument doesn't make sense because no one is actually suggesting we destroy the reef to build aquariums. This creates a "straw man" – an argument that doesn't represent what people really think. The real opposing view is that protecting the reef might cost money or affect industries like fishing and tourism. Your response about aquariums not giving "the natural look" is also too simple. Instead, you should explain the real economic reasons to protect the reef. For instance, tourism to the Great Barrier Reef brings billions of dollars to Australia each year, and destroying it would hurt the economy more than protecting it would.

**Exemplar:** *"Whilst some people worry that protecting the reef will hurt fishing industries, studies show that healthy reefs actually support more fish in the long run. Additionally, reef tourism brings over \$6 billion to Australia's economy each year, providing thousands of jobs that would disappear if the reef dies."*

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■ Your piece shows that you care about protecting the Great Barrier Reef and you've attempted to persuade readers to take action. However, your arguments need more specific details and accurate information to be convincing. Right now, your writing uses general statements like "many creatures" and "millions of marine animals" without explaining exactly what you mean. When you make a claim, you need to support it with facts. For example, instead of saying the reef is important for scientific research, explain what scientists actually discover there and how that helps people.

Your third paragraph about scientific research is particularly unclear – you mention marine biologists helping us know which fish to eat, but this doesn't connect well to protecting the reef or explain why the reef specifically is needed for this research. Additionally, your writing jumps between ideas without smooth connections. The paragraph about scientific research feels sudden after discussing endangered animals. You could use linking sentences to connect your paragraphs, such as: "Beyond providing homes for animals, the reef also serves as an important place for scientific discovery."

Your conclusion tries to create urgency, but the image of "swimming in murky water and rubbish" doesn't match the main threats to the reef you've discussed earlier. Instead, help readers imagine what a bleached, dead reef would actually look like – colourless and silent, without the vibrant life you described at the beginning. Finally, when you say "take action" and "every small detail counts," you haven't told readers what specific actions they can take. Give concrete suggestions like reducing plastic use, supporting reef-friendly tourism, or learning more about climate change.

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**Overall Score: 42/50**

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## Section 2

#1 Imagine yourself, swimming under crystal clear water with sunshine beaming down on you. ~~Vibrant corals~~ [Vibrant corals] of all different types were blooming next to you and sea turtles were racing with you. Schools of ~~fishes~~ [fish] darting around ~~creating colourful blurs~~ [created colourful blurs] of all different hues. Nowadays, those paradises are starting to become less and less vibrant with the coral bleaching and ~~fishes~~ [fish] becoming extinct. If we don't act now, we can lose the Great Barrier Reef, home to many of those creatures.

#2 The Great Barrier Reef is one of the most important ecosystems in Australia and shelters many rare marine animals. It provides a home to millions of marine creatures. However, today we are making the situation worse and worse, with animals critically endangered. Not only are animals starting to become extinct, ~~corals are bleaching by the floating rubbish around it~~ [**but corals are also bleaching due to rising ocean temperatures and pollution**]. If we protect the Great Barrier Reef, we could save the reef before the problems go too far.

#3 The reef is also the heart of scientific research. Without it, humanity can be weakened. However, the reason we stand strong and confident today is ~~because those marine biologists are actually helping us by identifying which fish we can consume and which can't~~ [**that marine biologists study the reef to understand ocean ecosystems, develop new medicines from marine organisms, and learn how to protect our oceans**]. If we destroy the Great Barrier Reef, those scientific studies would not only halt essential discoveries but also hinder ~~scientific points~~ [**scientific progress**] for understanding and protecting our planet's marine ecosystems, which we depend on for living.

#4 Some may say that we can destroy the reef for economic benefits and substitute it with aquariums. While this sounds reasonable, this statement is however false because ~~the aquarium~~ [**aquariums**] can't ~~give us the natural look~~ [**replicate the complex ecosystem or support the thousands of species that depend on the reef**], and it will prevent other animals from getting the freedom ~~we got~~ [**they need**] today.

If we wreck the reef today, our future children ~~that we might never get to meet~~ [**and grandchildren**] will never see the beautiful scenery we see today ~~from our window~~ [**when we visit the reef**]. Imagine yourself swimming in a sea of murky water ~~and rubbish~~ [**with rubbish**] floating around you. We can't let that happen, so take action. Every small detail counts.