

Section 1

#1: "Shades of red and black dashed around me as the deafening sound of cymbals and guitars pierced my ears."

Strengths:

- Your use of colours helps the reader picture the busy scene clearly
- The word "deafening" creates a strong sense of how loud the environment feels

Sensory Overload Without Purpose → Whilst you've included multiple senses (sight and sound), they feel listed rather than connected to your main feeling of being trapped. The colours "red and black" and the sounds don't work together to build the trapped bird feeling you mention later. Consider how each sensory detail could reinforce your central emotion.

Exemplar: *The crush of bodies pressed closer, red and black uniforms blurring together, whilst guitars shrieked above me like warning calls I couldn't escape.*

#2: "The uncomfortable taste of dust and dirt tinged my tongue, and I could feel myself trembling underneath."

Strengths:

- You've added taste as another sense, which shows good variety in your description
- "Trembling underneath" hints at your physical reaction to feeling overwhelmed

Unclear Physical Position → The phrase "trembling underneath" is confusing because readers don't know what you're underneath. Are you underneath the weight of the crowd? Underneath someone? This vagueness makes it harder for readers to understand your exact position in this scene, which weakens the trapped feeling you're trying to create.

Exemplar: *Dust coated my tongue as I crouched low, my whole body trembling beneath the press of the crowd above me.*

#3: "Everything-it felt as if a million boulders were weighed upon me. As if I didn't belong here."

Strengths:

- Your boulder comparison helps show the heavy, crushing feeling
- The short sentence "As if I didn't belong here" adds emotional depth beyond just physical discomfort

Fragment That Disrupts Flow → The opening "Everything-it felt" creates an incomplete thought that stumbles before reaching its point. This broken structure makes your reader pause awkwardly when they should be feeling the weight you're describing. The dash and pronoun together don't connect smoothly, which interrupts the crushing sensation you want to convey.

Exemplar: *Everything pressed down on me—a million boulders crushing my chest until I felt certain I didn't belong here.*



Your piece captures the overwhelming feeling of being trapped in a crowded, noisy place, and your comparison to a trapped bird longing for freedom is quite moving. However, your writing would benefit from connecting your sensory details more closely to your main emotion. Right now, you list what you see, hear, and taste, but these details feel separate from the trapped feeling rather than building towards it. Think about how each sight, sound, and taste could remind the reader that you feel caged in. Additionally, your sentence structures sometimes break the flow when you want readers to feel swept up in the chaos. Work on smoothing out fragments and connecting your ideas so one sentence leads naturally into the next. Also, try to ground your reader more clearly in the physical space—where exactly are you standing or crouching? What's directly around you versus far away? Finally, whilst your trapped bird metaphor is effective, consider developing it further by showing (through your details) why escape feels impossible rather than simply stating it. Your strongest moment is when you combine physical sensation with emotion, so aim to do this more consistently throughout.

Overall Score: 36/50

Section 2:

#1 Everyone around me was in a hurry. Shades of red and black dashed around me as the deafening sound of cymbals and guitars pierced my ears. #2 The uncomfortable taste of dust and dirt tinged my tongue, and I could feel myself trembling ~~underneath~~ [beneath the weight of it all]. #3 ~~Everything it felt~~ [Everything felt] as if a million boulders ~~were weighed~~ [weighed] upon me [—] ~~As if~~ [as if] I didn't belong here. I felt as if I was a trapped bird, longing for freedom-[—]how was I to get out of this endless crowd. [?]