Term 3 Holiday - 2025: Day 2 | 10-Day Intensive Selective Writing

Section 1

#1: Opening scene at the ticket booth"I'm 9, I'm with my dad and we are going to the amusement park. I see the ticket man and he says 'Tickets for you and your son?' to my dad, 'Yes!' replied my dad."

Strengths:

- Your dialogue feels natural and shows a clear interaction between the characters
- You've established the setting and your age right away, which helps readers understand your perspective

Underdeveloped opening → Your first sentences tell us the basic facts, but they feel quite flat. Instead of simply stating "I'm 9, I'm with my dad and we are going to the amusement park," you could draw readers in by showing your emotions or expectations. Were you excited? Nervous? What did the amusement park look like from outside? Starting with "I'm 9" feels abrupt, like you're filling in a form rather than telling a story.

Exemplar: My dad's hand gripped mine as we approached the towering gates of Wonderland Amusement Park. At nine years old, I'd been begging to come here for months.

#2: Sensory details in the park"When we went into the amusement park, I see the gigantic ferris wheel and the monsterously steep slide. I smell and taste some of the delicious hotdogs and pizza's."

Strengths:

- Your use of descriptive words like "gigantic" and "monsterously steep" helps readers visualise the rides
- You've included multiple senses (sight, smell, taste) which makes the scene more vivid

Disconnected sensory details → Your sensory descriptions feel like a list rather than part of the story. You mention seeing the rides, then suddenly you're smelling and tasting food, but there's no connection between these moments. Did you walk past a food stall? Did your dad buy you something? Also, "pizza's" uses an incorrect apostrophe—this should only show possession, not plurals. The phrase

"I smell and taste" is confusing because you wouldn't taste food just by smelling it unless you actually ate something.

Exemplar: The gigantic ferris wheel loomed overhead whilst the scent of sizzling hotdogs drifted from a nearby stall, making my stomach rumble.

#3: The ending with dad gambling"I see dad sitting at the 'ADULTS ONLY' gambling section, he plays the game with playing cards he loses his luck and money every turn, eventually he had no more money to gamble."

Strengths:

- Your ending shows a shift in tone from boredom to something more serious, which creates emotional impact
- You've captured an important moment that explains why this day wasn't enjoyable

Run-on sentence structure → This entire idea is crammed into one long sentence with multiple commas where full stops should be. "I see dad sitting at the 'ADULTS ONLY' gambling section, he plays the game with playing cards he loses his luck and money every turn" runs three separate ideas together without proper punctuation. This makes it difficult to read and understand. Each action (seeing dad, him playing, him losing) deserves its own sentence. Additionally, the phrase "loses his luck and money every turn" is vague—what game was he playing? How long were you watching? The detail about "no more money to gamble" is significant but gets lost in the rushed sentence.

Exemplar: I spotted Dad at the 'ADULTS ONLY' gambling section. He sat hunched over a card table, placing bet after bet. With each turn, his pile of chips shrank until finally, his wallet was empty.

Your writing captures a disappointing day at an amusement park from a child's perspective, which is a relatable topic. However, your piece needs stronger connections between ideas and more development of your feelings throughout the experience. Right now, you're telling us what happened (you went to the park, you were put in the kids' zone, your dad gambled), but you're not showing us how these moments affected you emotionally. The middle section about being in the kids' zone is particularly important—you say you feel bored and don't belong, but you could expand this by describing specific moments that made you feel this way. What were the other children doing? What

rides were you stuck on? Additionally, your ending feels rushed when it should be the most powerful part of your writing. The gambling scene reveals something serious about your dad's behaviour, but it's squeezed into one long sentence. You could slow down this section and show your reactions as you watched him. Were you worried? Confused? Angry? Your piece would benefit from varying your sentence structure—you start many sentences with "I see" or "I hear," which becomes repetitive. Try beginning sentences in different ways to keep your readers engaged. Also, think about the order of events: you mention tasting hotdogs and pizzas early on, but later say you felt bored in the kids' zone—did you actually eat, or just smell the food? These small details matter for clarity.

Overall Score: 36/50

Section 2

#1 I'm 9 [and] I'm with my dad.[.] and we are [We're] going to the amusement park. I see the ticket man, [.] and he [He] says [:] 'Tickets for you and your son?' to my dad [.] 'Yes!' replied my dad.

#2 When we went into the amusement park, I see [saw] the gigantic ferris wheel and the monsterously steep slide. I smell and taste [smelt] some of the delicious hotdogs and pizza's [pizzas].

The height checker said I have [had] to go in the small kids' ['] zone. I hear [heard] the screeching and squealing of 5 [five] year olds getting excited or ery [crying] because of a scary ride. I feel [felt] bored and I would rather be [have been] at home [.] I don't [I didn't] belong here.

#3 I see dad [saw Dad] sitting at the "ADULTS ONLY" gambling section, he plays [. He played] the game with playing cardshe loses [. He lost] his luck and money every turn, eventually [. Eventually,] he had no more money to gamble.