

Section 1

#1: Opening paragraph "In an age dominated by screens and algorithms, I rise to champion a timeless institution: the physical library."

Strengths:

- Your opening sentence grabs attention by contrasting modern technology with traditional libraries, which makes readers curious about what you'll say next.
- You clearly state your main argument right away, so readers know exactly what your speech is defending.

Vague Language → When you write "these sanctuaries of knowledge are not relics of the past—they are vital, vibrant, and irreplaceable," you use general words like "vital" and "vibrant" without explaining what they mean in this context. What makes them vital? Vital for what specific purposes? Instead of saying libraries are simply "vibrant," you could describe the actual activities happening there. Similarly, the phrase "the soul of our communities" sounds nice but doesn't tell us anything concrete about what libraries actually do.

Exemplar: *"These community spaces are essential because they provide free meeting rooms for local groups, quiet study areas for students without space at home, and programs that teach children to read—services that online resources simply cannot replace."*

#2: Environmental Stewardship paragraph "Contrary to popular belief, physical books often have a smaller environmental footprint than their digital counterparts."

Strengths:

- You present an interesting counter-argument that many people might not have considered, which strengthens your overall position.
- Your comparison between physical books and e-readers gives specific examples (rare earth minerals, manufacturing) rather than just making broad claims.

Insufficient Evidence → While you mention that e-readers require rare earth minerals and energy, you don't provide any numbers or comparisons to help readers understand the actual difference. How much energy does an e-reader use compared to printing a book? How many books would someone need to read on an e-reader before it becomes better for the environment than buying physical copies? Without these details, your argument feels incomplete. You also mention books can "last decades," but you don't compare this to how long e-readers last or address the fact that library books can be borrowed by hundreds of people, which might change the calculation.

Exemplar: *"A single physical book shared among twenty library members requires no electricity after printing, whilst an e-reader demands charging every few days and typically needs replacement every three to five years, creating ongoing electronic waste."*

#3: Technological Inclusivity paragraph "Physical libraries are lifelines for those without reliable internet, devices, or digital literacy."

Strengths:

- You identify three specific barriers (internet, devices, literacy) that affect real people, which makes your argument feel grounded in reality.
- Your examples of job applications and schoolwork show practical ways libraries help people in their daily lives.

Underdeveloped Connection → You mention that libraries offer Wi-Fi, computers, and workshops, but you don't connect these services back to why they need to happen in a physical building. Couldn't these services exist in community centres or schools instead? You need to explain what's special about libraries providing these services compared to other places. Additionally, when you call this "justice," you're making a strong claim without showing how the library specifically delivers justice better than other solutions might. What about mobile internet vans or loaned devices for homes?

Exemplar: *"Unlike temporary programs or school computer labs with restricted hours, libraries offer consistent, no-questions-asked access where trained librarians provide patient, judgement-free assistance to people learning technology at their own pace."*

■ Your piece makes a passionate case for physical libraries, and your structure with clear headings helps readers follow your main points. However, your writing would be much stronger if you included specific examples and evidence to support your claims. Right now, many of your statements feel general—you say libraries are important, but you don't always show us exactly how or why with concrete details.

For instance, in your paragraph about libraries as community hubs, you mention "toddlers attending storytime" and "seniors exploring genealogy," which are good specific activities. Try adding more of these throughout your writing. Instead of saying libraries "foster intergenerational engagement," you could describe a specific scene: perhaps a teenager helping an elderly person learn to use email, or a community group meeting to plan a neighbourhood garden. These real-life pictures make your argument much more convincing.

Additionally, your environmental section needs stronger support. You make claims about books having smaller environmental footprints than e-readers, but you don't provide any numbers or research to back this up. Even simple comparisons would help—how many books can you read on one e-reader before the environmental cost evens out? Your readers need this information to believe your point.

Also, consider addressing possible disagreements more thoroughly. Someone might argue that digital libraries could offer the same benefits you describe without needing physical buildings. What would you say to that? Your writing would be more persuasive if you tackled these counter-arguments directly. For example, in your technology section, you could explain why library computers are better than simply giving people tablets to use at home. Think about strengthening each paragraph by asking yourself: "What proof can I give? What example shows this? What might someone say against this, and how can I respond?"

Overall Score: 41/50

Section 2:

In Defence of Physical Libraries: A Beacon for Our Communities

Ladies and gentlemen, esteemed members of our community,

#1 In an age dominated by screens and algorithms, I rise to champion a timeless institution: the physical library. These sanctuaries of knowledge are not relics of the past—they are vital, vibrant, and irreplaceable. Real books, tangible spaces, and human connection form the backbone of intellectual growth and social cohesion. To abandon physical libraries is to forsake equity, sustainability, and the soul of our communities.

Societal & Cultural Value: Libraries as Community Hubs

Libraries are more than book repositories—they are democratic spaces where everyone belongs. From toddlers attending storytime to seniors exploring genealogy, libraries foster intergenerational engagement. They are inclusive, accessible, and free—an antidote to isolation and a catalyst for civic participation. In a world increasingly fragmented, libraries offer a shared space for dialogue, discovery, and dignity. They cultivate empathy, nurture curiosity, and preserve cultural heritage. To walk into a library is to step into a realm of possibility.

#3 Technological Inclusivity: Bridging the Digital Divide

While digital innovation surges forward, millions remain disconnected. Physical libraries are lifelines for those without reliable internet, devices, or digital literacy. They offer free Wi-Fi, public computers, and tech workshops—empowering individuals to apply for jobs, complete schoolwork, and access essential services. This is not just convenience; it is justice. Libraries democratise information, ensuring that no one is left behind in the digital age. They are the great ~~equalizers~~ [equalisers] in a world of widening gaps.

#2 Environmental Stewardship: Books vs. Digital Consumption

Contrary to popular belief, physical books often have a smaller environmental footprint than their digital counterparts. E-readers require rare earth minerals, energy-intensive manufacturing, and frequent charging. A well-loved book, passed from hand to hand, can last decades with minimal impact. Libraries promote reuse, reduce waste, and encourage mindful consumption. They are models of sustainability—proof that progress need not come at the planet's expense.

Conclusion & Call to Action: Preserve What Matters

Let us not be seduced by convenience at the cost of community. Physical libraries are resilient, relevant, and revolutionary. They embody equity, sustainability, and human connection. I urge policymakers,

educators, and citizens to invest in these institutions. Visit your local library. Volunteer. Advocate for funding. Share the joy of a real book. Because when we protect libraries, we protect the future.

Let us be the stewards of knowledge, the champions of access, and the guardians of culture. The library is not just a building—it is a beacon. Let it shine.

Note: Do not use emojis in your writing.