

Section 1

#1 (Opening paragraph) *Strengths:* Your opening creates a relatable scenario that many students will connect with, and you clearly state your main argument about implementing a 30-minute reading slot.

Weakness: Lack of engaging hook → Your opening jumps straight into complaints about school without drawing readers in first. The phrase "School's nothing special, nothing more than a routine" feels flat and doesn't make readers want to continue. You could create more interest by starting with a thought-provoking question or surprising fact.

Exemplar: "What if there was a simple 30-minute solution that could transform your school day from stressful to enjoyable?"

#2 (Second paragraph about stress relief) *Strengths:* You provide specific evidence from the National Institutes of Health survey, and you connect the reading solution directly to the stress problem you've identified.

Weakness: Unclear connection between concepts → The jump from "reading gives the brain a break" to discussing sleep problems feels disconnected. You mention that reading is "generally peaceful" but don't explain why this specifically helps with stress relief or how it differs from other peaceful activities.

Exemplar: "Reading allows your mind to focus on one story instead of worrying about multiple school tasks, which helps calm racing thoughts that keep students awake at night."

#3 (Fourth paragraph about creativity) *Strengths:* You make good connections between creativity and practical life skills, showing how reading benefits extend beyond just academic work.

Weakness: Vague explanations without depth → You state that "books introduce you to different ways of looking at certain things" but don't explain how this actually builds creativity. The connection between reading and skills like "coding, or woodwork" needs clearer explanation of the thinking process involved.

Exemplar: "When you read about characters solving problems in creative ways, your brain learns to think of unusual solutions that you can apply to real-life challenges."

■ Your piece tackles an important topic that affects many students, and you've structured your argument well with clear main points about stress, literacy, and creativity. However, your writing

would benefit from deeper explanations of how reading actually creates these benefits. Instead of simply stating that reading helps, show your readers the specific ways it works. Additionally, your examples could be more concrete - rather than saying reading helps with "woodwork," explain exactly how the creative thinking from stories applies to designing or building something. Your counterargument paragraph shows good awareness of opposing views, but you could strengthen it by addressing more specific concerns teachers or principals might have. Also, consider adding more variety to your sentence structure to keep readers engaged throughout your piece. Finally, some of your transitions between ideas could be smoother to help readers follow your logic more easily.

Overall Score: 46/50

Section 2:

School's nothing special, nothing more than a routine. I wake up every day, go to school, learn about boring things like calculating the square root of big numbers, pull my head out trying to figure out how I'm going to write 2 pages on the death of Julius Caesar, realise I've got a presentation right after lunchtime that I haven't prepared for, go to lunch filled with dread, and at the end of school, I get home empty of motivation but full of homework. But surely there's something better than this. Something to break the stress and boredom that is schoolwork. That is why we need a mandatory 30-minute reading slot every day at school. Not only does this relieve some stress out of students, it improves literacy education and it can improve a student's imagination and creativity.

#1 To start off, reading gives the brain a break. Students can be extremely stressed after a day of school, particularly from the hard work they have to do. Implementing a 30-minute reading slot into the day can help with that, since reading is generally peaceful, and you get to immerse yourself into the wonderful world of your story. A survey was held by the National Institutes of Health, where a majority of children said that stress from school was impacting their sleep patterns, and they found themselves unable to sleep thinking about school. This shows that this problem is actually nation-wide, not a thing that only me and you have. If we remove the stress that is causing huge problems to our sleep by adding this small 30 minutes of reading into our timetable, many students would find themselves no longer overwhelmed, and there would be less problems regarding mental wellbeing.

#2 Beyond health, the 30 minutes of reading would also give students an academic benefit too. Reading solidifies a student's literacy ability and can even improve it. Good literacy is the most

important foundation when it comes to any academic aspect, further highlighting the importance of these 30 minutes. Reading books helps the brain store common narrative plots and threads, normalise complex vocabulary and assemble a text from multiple sources. Numerous studies have also shown that students that began reading for pleasure got direct boosts to their reading assessments and spoke much more fluently after. A good knowledge of literacy can help in any context, whether it's school, daily life or future work, and this 30-minute reading slot will improve that. By adding this mandatory reading slot, we can ensure that every student has an exceptional education.

#3 Furthermore, reading boosts a student's imagination and creativity. By reading lots of books, the students have more ideas in their brain, which will boost their ability to think creatively. Books introduce you to different ways of looking at certain things, new characters, new settings, all of which helps you think more creatively. This doesn't mean just in writing, but in other activities too. Lots of things require creativity, like coding, or woodwork, or art, and this 30 minutes of reading can help you with that. To further highlight the benefit of this reading slot, it has been proven that creativity is related to a lot of other necessary skills to have, like problem solving or critical thinking. These things are not just used academically, but also in real life too. These skills help you manage your time, resolve a conflict, manage a budget, and much more. Just this little brain boost from reading can do that much, so why not implement it?

While some may think that 30 minutes of reading would take away too much time from seemingly more important subjects like Maths or English, there should be no doubt that 30 minutes would not take away too much time, considering the 6-7 hours that school takes up. Students also need time to give their brain a break, since they cannot learn effectively if they are too stressed, and there is really no point in teaching a class where half are talking about their plans after school and half are staring at their desk doodling stickmen in the corner of their worksheet. This 30-minute reading slot also serves as a sort of lesson by itself, as students are actually benefitting their literacy skills by reading. Instead of an atmosphere where a teacher points at a whiteboard talking about metaphors, this reading can benefit students from music to art to sports to maths and everything in between. While this reading slot seems to be a waste of time, it actually is a well-chosen investment.

To conclude, a mandatory 30-minute reading session every school day is much more than a waste of time or a small break; It's a time designed to help students relax, while improving their academic abilities and boosting the skills they'll need in future life. By implementing this simple yet powerful initiative, we can help students experience a calm and helpful learning environment every day, when going to school.