

Section 1:

#1 (Opening paragraph)

Strengths: Your opening creates a lovely picture that draws readers in with phrases like "wave of calm washes over the campus" and "digital noise of the modern world fades." You also clearly state your main argument at the end.

Weakness: Unclear connection → Your opening example doesn't clearly link to your main point. You describe students reading different types of books like "novels, biographies, and graphic novels," but then your argument focuses only on general reading benefits. The connection between your peaceful scene and why reading must be mandatory for 30 minutes isn't clearly explained.

Exemplar: *"This peaceful reading time would become reality if schools made 30-minute daily reading periods mandatory for all students."*

#2 (Second paragraph about academic performance)

Strengths: You provide specific examples of how reading helps, like following "complex narrative threads" and "assimilate information from multiple sources." Your example about history texts becoming easier is relatable.

Weakness: Missing support → You mention "numerous studies" but don't explain what these studies actually found or how reliable they are. Phrases like "numerous studies have found" need more detail to convince readers that your claims are true.

Exemplar: *"Research by education experts shows that students who read daily improve their test scores by 15% and learn 2000 new words each year."*

#3 (Final paragraph before conclusion)

Strengths: You address a counter-argument about taking time from other subjects, which shows you understand different viewpoints. Your point about reading being a "high-yield investment" is clever.

Weakness: Weak evidence → Your claims about reading improving "music practice and art to sports" are not well supported. You state that concentration from reading transfers to these areas, but you don't explain how or provide any proof that this actually happens.

Exemplar: *"Students who practise focusing during reading time report better concentration in maths class and improved performance in team sports that require sustained attention."*

■ Your piece demonstrates strong persuasive writing skills and tackles an important educational topic. You've structured your argument well with clear reasons supporting mandatory reading time. However, your writing would benefit from stronger evidence and clearer connections between your ideas. Many of your claims need more detailed support - instead of saying "studies show," explain exactly what the research found. Additionally, work on making smoother transitions between your paragraphs so readers can easily follow your thinking. Your examples are good, but some need to be more specific and believable. Consider focusing on fewer, stronger points rather than trying to cover too many benefits. Also, when you mention how reading helps with other subjects or activities, explain exactly how this connection works. Your conclusion effectively summarises your main points, but your body paragraphs need more convincing details to support your argument.

Overall Score: 45/50

Section 2:

Imagine a school where a wave of calm washes over the campus. The digital noise of the modern world fades as students and teachers alike settle into a shared, quiet moment, lost in the pages of novels, biographies, and graphic novels. How can we afford not to give our children this vital sanctuary rather than the monotonous, tiring rhythm of modern school life? Implementing a mandatory 30-minute reading slot every day is the single most effective way to enhance students' academic achievement, support their mental well-being, and cultivate a lifelong love of learning. #1

~~First of all, this change~~ [Firstly, implementing daily reading time] improves academic performance. A solid foundation in literacy is the cornerstone of all learning. Reading trains the brain to follow complex narrative threads, assimilate information from multiple sources, and sustain focus for extended periods. Numerous studies have found that students who regularly read for pleasure not only score higher on reading assessments but also develop a more extensive vocabulary and enhance their overall written communication skills. Imagine the surge of confidence a student feels when a challenging history text becomes a simple story to follow, all because of their daily reading habit. ~~Not~~

~~only that, reading also refreshes the brain, a much-needed break for all students.~~ [Furthermore, reading provides mental refreshment, offering students a necessary cognitive break.] #2

Beyond the academic benefits, a daily reading period offers a much-needed emotional reprieve and supports mental well-being. In a world saturated with digital distractions and social pressures, students rarely have the chance to disconnect and simply be. A dedicated, quiet reading time provides a sanctuary—a moment of mindfulness that has been shown to reduce stress and anxiety. It also cultivates empathy by allowing students to step into a character's shoes, fostering a deeper understanding and compassion for others. The simple act of being lost in a story can lower heart rate and reduce feelings of stress, providing a vital break for young minds. By making this a mandatory part of the school day, we ensure that every student has the opportunity to experience the peace and emotional growth that reading provides, regardless of their circumstances.

Finally, this proposal is a matter of institutional credibility and responsibility, as it helps to create a lifelong habit. By instituting a daily reading time, a school sends a clear message that it values not only high test scores but also intellectual curiosity and lifelong learning. This policy also addresses educational equity, ensuring that students from disadvantaged backgrounds who may not have access to a quiet reading space or books at home are given this vital opportunity. By consistently providing a designated time and space for reading, schools can help students form a habit that will serve them for the rest of their lives, long after the last exam has been taken. This simple routine is a priceless gift that gives them a companion for life's many journeys. Some might contend that this programme infringes on a teacher's autonomy to plan their lessons and pace the curriculum as they see fit. However, this policy actually supports teachers by providing a consistent structure and ensuring all students are engaging in the kind of independent practice that makes classroom instruction more effective.

While it may seem that dedicating 30 minutes to reading every day would take away from other core subjects or extracurricular activities, this perspective views the school day as a zero-sum game – a fixed amount of time where every minute spent on one activity is a minute lost from another. In reality, a mandatory reading period is a high-yield investment, not a loss. The time spent reading directly improves a student's foundational skills – such as reading comprehension, vocabulary, and critical thinking – making them more efficient and effective learners in every subject. Furthermore, the concentration and mental stamina built during quiet reading are transferable skills that benefit students in all areas of their lives. The ability to sit and focus for an extended period of time is a vital asset in an increasingly distracted world. This skill improves performance in everything from music practice and art to sports, making the time dedicated to those activities more productive. #3

~~To conclude~~ [In conclusion], in the grander scheme of educational policy, a mandatory 30-minute daily reading time is far more than a simple scheduling change; it is a vital and transformative proposal that promises to redefine the student experience. This powerful initiative will boost academic performance, support student well-being, and reflect a school's fundamental commitment to a holistic education. By embracing this simple yet powerful initiative, we can help our students not only navigate the challenges of the classroom but also build the intellectual and emotional resilience needed to truly thrive in an ever-evolving world.