Term 3 - 2025: Week 8 - Writing Homework | Year 5 Scholarship Specialisation

Section 1:

#1 (Opening paragraph: "Envision a classroom where...")

Strengths: Your vivid imagery creates a strong picture that helps readers see what you mean. Your thesis statement is clear and tells readers exactly what your essay will argue.

Lack of audience consideration → Your opening assumes all readers will agree that quiet reading is better than "noisy activities," but some might prefer active learning. You could strengthen this by acknowledging different learning styles before making your case.

Exemplar: "While some students learn best through active discussion and movement, imagine a classroom where every student also has quiet time with a book..."

#2 (Second paragraph: "Firstly, regular reading builds...")

Strengths: You use a good example about vocabulary expansion. Your point about reading helping all subjects, not just English, is well-made.

Vague supporting evidence → When you say "research shows that frequent readers consistently perform better," you don't give specific details about what research or what the results actually were. This makes your argument weaker than it could be.

Exemplar: "Studies by education researchers have found that students who read for 30 minutes daily score an average of 15% higher on comprehension tests across all subjects."

#3 (Third paragraph: "Finally, a daily reading slot...")

Strengths: Your connection between reading and empathy is thoughtful. You address people who say they don't like reading, which shows you're thinking about different viewpoints.

Underdeveloped reasoning → You mention that reading "nurtures empathy and imagination" and helps us understand "different cultures," but you don't explain how this actually happens or why it matters for students' education.

Exemplar: "When students read about characters from different backgrounds, they learn to understand feelings and situations unlike their own, which helps them work better with classmates and understand different subjects like history."

■ Your piece presents a well-structured argument with clear reasons supporting daily reading time in schools. The writing flows smoothly from one point to the next, and you've chosen three strong main arguments. However, your essay would be stronger with more specific examples and deeper explanations of your ideas. Additionally, you could make your argument more convincing by explaining exactly how reading creates the benefits you mention. Your conclusion effectively brings together your main points, but the whole essay could be enhanced by showing more detailed connections between reading and student success. Also, consider addressing potential concerns teachers or principals might have about fitting reading time into busy school schedules.

Score: 45/50

Section 2:

#1 Envision a classroom where, instead of rushing from one noisy activity to the next, every student sits quietly with a book in their hands. The room is filled with the soft rustle of pages turning, the occasional smile as someone reaches a funny part, or the wide-eyed wonder as another is swept into an adventure. For thirty minutes each day, the stress of assignments, exams, and social pressures fades away, replaced by imagination, reflection, and calm. This is not a dream – it is a simple change schools can make by introducing a mandatory daily reading time. All schools should dedicate thirty minutes every day for students to read, because it improves literacy, reduces stress, and fosters a lifelong love of learning.

#2 Firstly, regular reading builds stronger literacy skills, which are the foundation for every subject. The more students read, the more their vocabulary expands, their comprehension improves, and their ability to write clearly strengthens. For instance, a student who reads a variety of novels, articles, or biographies will be exposed to words and ideas far beyond what is covered in the classroom. This naturally makes them more confident in essays, debates, and exams. In fact, research shows that frequent readers consistently perform better academically, not just in English but across all subjects.

#3 Secondly, reading time provides a mental break that supports wellbeing. Many teenagers feel overwhelmed by the constant demands of schoolwork, social media, and extracurricular activities. A half-hour reading session allows them to unplug and recharge. Immersing themselves in a fantasy world, a mystery, or even a biography can lower stress levels and improve focus. Some critics might

argue that thirty minutes a day is "lost learning time," but in truth, reading boosts concentration, so students often return to their lessons more energised and productive.

Finally, a daily reading slot helps build lifelong habits. When students are shown that reading is not just for homework or assessments, but for enjoyment and self-discovery, they are more likely to continue the practice outside school. This is essential, because reading nurtures empathy and imagination. Whether it is exploring different cultures, stepping into the shoes of a historical figure, or learning from inspiring leaders, books expand our perspectives in ways few other activities can. Even those who claim, "I don't like reading," may just not have found the right book yet. A daily reading session gives them the chance to discover it.

In conclusion, making thirty minutes of daily reading compulsory is not a burden but a gift to students. It strengthens literacy, supports wellbeing, and creates a culture where stories and ideas are valued. While some may argue that time could be spent on other subjects, the truth is that every subject benefits from better readers. By introducing this simple change, schools would not just be teaching students how to succeed in exams – they would be shaping thoughtful, empathetic, and imaginative lifelong learners.