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

Section 1:

#1: "Imagine a special time at school, every single day, where all the students have the opportunity to dive into a wonderful book. No maths assignment, no massive project, just sit still and read. Sounds magical, doesn't it?"

Strengths:

- Your opening creates an inviting picture that helps readers imagine this reading time
- You've used a direct question to engage your audience right from the start

Weakness: Underdeveloped hook \rightarrow While your opening paints a nice scene, it could draw readers in more strongly by connecting to feelings or experiences they already have. Think about what students actually feel during their busy school day—perhaps tired, rushed, or stressed. Your opening could tap into these emotions more directly before offering reading time as the solution. The phrase "sit still and read" also sounds a bit passive when you could emphasise the active joy of getting lost in a story.

Exemplar: Imagine having a moment in your busy school day when you can escape into adventures, learn fascinating facts, or simply relax with a brilliant story—no pressure, no deadlines, just you and a book you've chosen yourself.

#2: "First, reading makes us amazing learners. If we read every day, our reading is so strong. We learn new words, better understand stories, and read more smoothly."

Strengths:

- You've clearly stated your first main reason with a topic sentence
- Your point about learning new vocabulary is relevant and true

Weakness: Vague development → Your paragraph tells readers that reading helps, but it doesn't show them how or why this matters in specific ways. When you write "our reading is so strong," what does "strong" actually mean? Your supporting details remain quite general (new words, understanding stories) without concrete examples or explanations that help readers picture the real benefits. The phrase "It's like brain exercise" is a start, but you haven't explained how this exercise actually works or what it strengthens.

Exemplar: Daily reading strengthens specific skills: when you encounter words like "enormous" or "peculiar" in stories and see them used in different contexts, your brain begins to understand their meanings naturally, making your own writing and speaking more precise and varied.

#3: "Now, other individuals might be thinking, 'But where are we going to find the time? Our school day is already full!' I know what they're saying, but I think 30 minutes is a small amount of time for a huge payoff."

Strengths:

- You've addressed a counterclaim, which shows you understand persuasive writing structure
- Your response acknowledges the concern before defending your position

Weakness: Superficial counterargument response → Your paragraph raises an important objection but dismisses it too quickly without thoroughly proving your point. When you say "we could cut down another activity a little bit," you haven't explained which activities could be reduced or why reading deserves priority over them. The phrase "it's time to learn" doesn't convince someone who already believes their packed schedule is full of learning. You need to provide stronger reasoning or evidence about why 30 minutes of reading creates better results than 30 minutes of other subjects.

Exemplar: Rather than viewing this as lost time, consider that students who read regularly complete homework faster because they comprehend instructions more quickly, meaning that 30 minutes of reading could actually save time throughout the rest of the day.

■ Your piece presents a clear position on daily reading time and follows a recognisable persuasive structure with an introduction, body paragraphs supporting your view, counterarguments, and a conclusion. However, your writing would benefit from deeper development of your ideas. Throughout your piece, you tend to state that reading helps without explaining specifically how or providing convincing evidence. For instance, when you claim reading "makes us smart, happier, and even more creative," your body paragraphs need to unpack these claims with detailed explanations or real examples that help readers understand the connection. Additionally, your response to opposing views needs strengthening—simply saying something is "worth it" doesn't persuade readers who genuinely worry about time constraints. Consider also how your paragraphs connect to each other. Your second body paragraph jumps from talking about learning benefits to discussing fun and

creativity without a smooth bridge between these ideas. Try adding sentences that link your paragraphs together, showing how each reason builds on the previous one. Your vocabulary is generally appropriate, though phrases like "other individuals" sound overly formal compared to your otherwise friendly tone. Think carefully about whether each sentence adds new information or just repeats what you've already said—your conclusion, for example, restates your main points but could instead leave readers with a powerful final thought about why this change matters for their futures.

Overall Score: 44/50

Section 2:

#1 Imagine a special time at school, every single day, where all the students have the opportunity to dive into a wonderful book. No maths assignment, no massive project, just sit still and read. Sounds magical, doesn't it? I am one hundred percent [per cent] positive that all schools should implement a mandatory 30-minute daily reading time for all the students. It would make us smart [smarter], happier, and even more creative!

#2 First, reading makes us amazing [exceptional] learners. If we read every day, our reading is so strong. [When we read every day, our reading skills become remarkably strong.] We learn new words, better understand stories, and read more smoothly. This helps us in all our classes, not just English! Consider this: if you can read questions with ease in science or history, you'll have them so much faster [you'll complete them so much faster] and do better. It's like brain exercise, making our brains so strong and ready for anything.

#3 Second, it is so much fun to read and it makes us think creatively! [reading is tremendously enjoyable and it makes us think creatively!] If we read only 30 minutes a day, we would get to have thrilling adventures, meet fabulous heroes, and explore enchanted kingdoms, all within the security of our classroom! Reading helps us pretend, dream, and create fantastic pictures in our minds. Reading helps us discover new things we love, like funny cartoons, awesome non-fiction about the cosmos, or classic fairy tales. [Additionally, reading helps us discover new things we love, like humorous graphic novels, fascinating non-fiction about the cosmos, or classic fairy tales.] This quiet time also helps us unwind and remain peaceful during our busy school day.

Now, other individuals might be thinking, "But where are we going to find the time? Our school day is already full!" I know what they're saying, but I think 30 minutes is a small amount of time for a huge payoff. We could cut down another activity a little bit, or perhaps do it after lunch. This is not "extra" time; it's time to learn! Reading makes us more proficient at all the other things, so in a way, it does help us learn sooner in the other classes [helps us learn more efficiently in the other classes]. It's an investment in ourselves.

Another issue might be, "What if some kids don't like reading, or if schools don't have enough books?" That's a legitimate concern. But mandating it means everyone has to try it. And the beauty of it is, "reading" does not have to be extensive novels! Students may choose to read graphic novels, magazines, or non-fiction books about their favorite [favourite] animals, or even listen quietly with headphones to an audiobook. Schools can utilize [utilise] their library room, provide classroom book nooks, or even ask students to bring a beloved home book. The aim is to enjoy reading, and with all the choices, everyone will be able to discover something they adore.

So, let's make this fantastic concept become reality! A 30-minute daily reading time would create better readers, ignite brilliant imagination, and make for a quieter, more contented school. It's an easy tweak that would make a massive impact on all students. Let's open our books and open our minds!