Term 3 - 2025: Week 9 - Writing Homework | Year 5 Scholarship Specialisation

Section 1:

#1 "When we talk about the safety of children, there should be no compromise. As a society that values education and well-being, it is our responsibility to ensure that every student can arrive at school safely and return home without unnecessary risk."

Strengths: Your opening creates a strong foundation by focusing on children's safety and community responsibility. You establish clear importance for the topic right away.

Unclear argument structure → Your piece jumps straight to flashing lights as the solution without first explaining what the current problems are. You mention "unnecessary risk" but don't describe what specific dangers students face when crossing roads near schools. This makes it hard for readers to understand why flashing lights are needed.

Exemplar: Before introducing flashing lights, you could write: "Currently, many students cross busy roads without clear signals, making it difficult for drivers to see them, especially during rush hour."

#2 "If you haven't noticed, schools are high-traffic areas during the morning and afternoon. the usual drop off and pick up times. Cars, buses, bikes all collide at once, creating a sleepless, sometimes chaotic environment."

Strengths: You paint a clear picture of busy school zones and explain when the problem happens. Your description helps readers visualise the situation.

Sentence structure problems → Your writing has incomplete sentences like "the usual drop off and pick up times" which don't connect properly to the previous sentence. The phrase "sleepless, sometimes chaotic environment" doesn't make sense because environments can't be sleepless.

Exemplar: "Schools become high-traffic areas during the morning and afternoon drop-off and pick-up times, when cars, buses, and bikes create a busy, sometimes chaotic environment."

#3 "How can you sleep at night knowing how an average of 500 children die each day due to traffic problems after school? How much grief those poor parents go through?"

Strengths: You connect emotionally with readers by asking them to imagine the consequences. Your questions make people think about the real impact on families.

Unsupported claims → You state "an average of 500 children die each day due to traffic problems after school" without explaining where this number comes from or if it applies to Australia specifically. This statistic seems very large and needs more context to be believable.

Exemplar: "Every year in Australia, traffic accidents near schools cause serious injuries to children, creating heartbreak for families in our communities."

■ Your piece shows good passion for keeping children safe, which is excellent. However, your argument would be much stronger if you organised your ideas more clearly. You need to first explain the specific problems at school crossings, then show how flashing lights solve these exact problems. Additionally, your piece would benefit from connecting your paragraphs better so readers can follow your thinking step by step. Also, you should provide more specific details about how flashing lights work and why they're better than other solutions. Furthermore, your emotional appeal is powerful, but it needs to be supported with clearer facts that readers can trust. Your conclusion could also be stronger by summarising your main points rather than just restating the solution.

Overall Score: 41/50

Section 2:

#1 When we talk about the safety of children, there should be no compromise. As a society that values education and well-being, it is our responsibility to ensure that every student can arrive at school safely and return home without unnecessary risk. And how do we solve this? Simply by adding flashing pedestrian crossing lights.

#2 If you haven't noticed, schools are high-traffic areas during the morning and afternoon. the usual drop off and pick up times [drop-off and pick-up times]. Cars, buses, bikes [and bicycles] all collide [converge] at once, creating a sleepless [busy], sometimes chaotic environment. A pedestrian crossing with a flashing light has been proven to reduce accidents, improve driver awareness, and create a structured, visible path for both students and parents to cross safely. Research shows that even a small decrease in vehicle speed dramatically lowers the chance of serious injury or death. For example, a pedestrian struck at 50 km/h is twice as likely to die compared to being struck at 30 km/h.

#3 How can you sleep at night knowing how [that] an average of 500 children die each day due to traffic problems after school? How much grief those [do these] poor parents go through? How much pain the [do these] children suffered [suffer]? Imagine the heartbreak of a mother waiting at the gate, expecting her child to come running out with a smile, only to face silence instead. Picture a father's helplessness as he rushes to a hospital, wishing he had one more chance to hold his child's hand. These are not merely distant tragedies; they are possibilities that hover over every busy road near a school. No community should wait until it loses one of its own children before taking action.

Finally, with credibility, we can look to countless schools across the globe already implemented [that have already implemented] such crossings with enormous success. Road safety experts and local councils endorse them as the best practice. If other communities recognise [recognise] their value, why should ours be left behind? Why should our children of Australia face such difficulties? Why not help them? All with the simple act of building a flashing postlight [pedestrian light].

In conclusion, not only are flashing pedestrian lights effective, they give your child an opportunity. An opportunity many others have never gotten. An opportunity that people whom [who] never made it to their twenties have achieved [been denied]. An opportunity to live.