

Section 1:

#1: Opening and main request (first two paragraphs)

Strengths: Your opening is polite and professional, addressing Mr Holmes respectfully. You've also clearly stated your main request upfront and provided a preview of your three key reasons, which helps organise your writing effectively.

Abrupt transition and unsupported statistic → Your writing jumps too quickly from the greeting into "I am requesting" without establishing any connection or context first. The phrase "Research shows that over 70% of students are not ready to return to school" appears without any source or explanation of where this figure comes from. When you use statistics in persuasive writing, you need to make them believable by mentioning where the information came from, otherwise readers may question whether it's accurate. Your second paragraph would be much stronger if you explained what specifically made students tired this term rather than making a general claim.

Exemplar: "As a student at our school, I have noticed how exhausted many of my classmates have become after this particularly demanding term. I am writing to request that you consider extending our school holiday break by an extra week, which would allow students to properly rest, reconnect with family, and engage in important activities outside of school."

#2: Family time paragraph (third paragraph)

Strengths: You've explained clearly why students don't have much family time during the school term by mentioning both school hours and homework. Your point about creating "meaningful memories which they can cherish for years to come" adds emotional weight to your argument.

Shallow reasoning without specific benefits → Whilst you mention spending more time with families, your writing doesn't explore why this matters beyond the obvious. The phrase "create meaningful memories" is quite vague and doesn't explain how family time actually benefits students' wellbeing or school performance. Your paragraph would be stronger if you connected family time to specific outcomes, such as reduced stress, improved emotional health, or stronger family support systems that help students succeed at school. Currently, this reads more like stating a nice idea rather than presenting a compelling reason for the Principal to grant your request.

Exemplar: "Additionally, the extra week would allow students to strengthen family bonds, which research shows directly supports emotional wellbeing and academic success. When

students feel connected and supported at home, they return to school with greater confidence and resilience to tackle challenging work."

#3: Activities paragraph and conclusion

Strengths: You've provided specific examples of activities (sports, games, craft) which makes your point more concrete. Your conclusion neatly summarises your three main points.

Contradictory final sentence and weak closing → Your fourth paragraph contains a confusing error when you write "it is imperative that students get an extra week of school" when you clearly mean an extra week off school. This mistake undermines your argument because it says the opposite of what you intend. Additionally, your conclusion states "This will definitely benefit the students" which sounds too absolute and certain—you cannot guarantee definite benefits. Your closing would be more persuasive if you acknowledged Mr Holmes' perspective and invited further discussion rather than simply restating your points. The phrase "They will be more focused in the new term" at the end feels disconnected and weak as a final impression.

Exemplar: "I understand this decision requires careful consideration of many factors, including the school calendar and staff schedules. However, I believe the benefits to student wellbeing and academic performance make this request worthy of serious consideration. I would be happy to discuss this further if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for taking the time to consider this proposal."

■ Your piece demonstrates good structural organisation with clear paragraphs for each main point, but the content lacks depth and persuasive power. The biggest issue is that your arguments remain at a surface level without exploring why your points actually matter to the school or Principal. For example, you mention that students need rest, but you don't explain what happens when students are exhausted—do grades drop? Do behaviour problems increase? Does attendance suffer? To strengthen your writing, develop each paragraph by connecting your points to outcomes that the Principal cares about, such as academic performance, student wellbeing, or school reputation. Additionally, your writing needs more audience awareness. Mr Holmes must consider many factors beyond student preferences, such as teacher schedules, curriculum requirements, and school policies. Acknowledging these concerns and explaining why your request still makes sense despite these challenges would make your argument much more convincing. Also, avoid using unverified statistics—the "70% of students" claim weakens your credibility because it appears made up. Instead, use your own observations or refer to general research findings about student rest and learning. Finally, your conclusion needs to be more

strategic by offering to discuss the matter further or suggesting a trial period, which shows you're open to dialogue rather than simply demanding a change.

Score: 42/50

Section 2:

Dear Mr Holmes,

I hope this email finds you well.

I am requesting that you extend our school holiday break by an extra week. Students need [an] extra break to replenish their energy, spend more quality time with family[,] and to [delete "to"] engage in other activities outside of school. #1

To begin with, students need an extended break to replenish their energy in order to focus and learn more efficiently in the new term. Research shows that over 70% of students are not ready to return to school and feel too tired to be motivated to learn. A longer break will ensure that they get enough rest to focus and prepare to perform at their best. #1

In addition, the additional week will allow students to spend more time with their family. During the school term, the students are at school during the day[,] and after school[,] there is homework to complete, leaving very little time with their family. This extra week will ensure that students spend more time with their families to create meaningful memories which they can cherish for years to come. #2

Furthermore, the extra week will give students the opportunity to engage in other activities outside of school. Whether it is playing sports, playing games with friends[,] or even craft activities, these activities are vital to a child's development. In order for students to have a balanced lifestyle, it is imperative that students get an extra week of school [off school]. #3

Please consider my request to extend the school holiday break by an extra week. This will definitely [would greatly] benefit the students to [by allowing them to] replenish their energy, spend more quality time with family[,] and engage in other activities outside of school. They will be more focused in the new term.

Kindest regards,

Samuel Kang