Term 3 Holiday - 2025: Day 4 | 10-Day Intensive Selective Writing

Section 1

#1: Opening paragraph (from "Imagine a final showdown..." to "...Cats are definitely better than dogs.")

Strengths:

- Your opening grabs attention by comparing the cats vs dogs debate to other animal rivalries, which helps readers understand how big this topic is
- You clearly state your main argument that cats are better than dogs, so readers know exactly
 what your piece will be about

Unclear Introduction Structure → Your opening jumps between several different ideas without connecting them smoothly. You mention "what and what" in the first sentence, which doesn't make sense, then move to leopards and tigers, then suddenly to the debate itself. The phrase "we have finally received an answer" suggests something scientific happened, but you don't explain what changed. Your sentences like "Sure, they're both cute. Sure, they're both cool. Sure, they're huggable" repeat the word "sure" too many times without adding new information, and then you say "both share a rivalry between each other," which repeats what you've already told us.

Example improvement: For years, people have debated whether cats or dogs make better pets. After observing both animals closely, I believe cats are the clear winners because they fit more easily into our busy lives.

#2: Second paragraph (from "Imagine being as lazy as Garfield..." to "...It's only trying to protect you, but it makes too many disturbances.")

Strengths:

- Using Garfield as an example makes your point relatable and fun for readers who know this character
- You provide a direct comparison between cats and dogs, which helps support your argument

Lack of Supporting Details → Your paragraph relies heavily on one cartoon character example rather than real facts about cat behaviour. When you say cats "just eat food, have fun with you and sleep with no disturbances," you're oversimplifying what cats actually do. The statement "dogs bark at any scent,

at any unfamiliar person" needs more explanation about why this matters to pet owners. You mention dogs "taking you hostage" at night, but this phrase is confusing because pets can't actually take people hostage, and you don't clarify what you mean.

Example improvement: Cats are naturally calm animals who sleep 12-16 hours per day, which means they won't disturb your sleep schedule. Unlike dogs who need regular walks and often bark when they hear noises outside, cats are content to rest quietly beside you.

#3: Third paragraph (from "While others say dogs are a man's best friend..." to end)

Strengths:

- You include practical information about the space and equipment needed for each pet, which gives concrete reasons for your argument
- The example of a dog getting stuck under the sofa creates a vivid picture in the reader's mind

Underdeveloped Reasoning → Your paragraph lists facts but doesn't fully explain why these facts matter. When you say "cats don't need to occupy that much space compared to dogs," you list items like litter boxes and cat towers, but you don't explain how much space this actually saves or why saving space is important. The sentence "they live longer than dogs" appears without any numbers or explanation—how much longer? The dog-under-the-sofa example is creative, but it describes an unusual situation rather than everyday problems that most dog owners face. Your conclusion "And that is why, cats are better than dogs" simply restates your opinion without summarising the actual reasons you've given.

Example improvement: Cats typically live 12-18 years whilst many dog breeds only live 10-13 years, giving you more time with your pet. Additionally, cats need only a small corner for their supplies, making them perfect for flats or smaller homes where a large dog bed and play area wouldn't fit.

■ Your piece presents an opinion about cats versus dogs, but it needs stronger evidence and clearer organisation to convince readers. Right now, your arguments feel quite general—you mention that cats are relaxed and don't need much space, but you haven't given specific examples or facts that prove these points matter. For instance, instead of just saying cats live longer, you could include actual lifespans and explain why this benefits pet owners. Your Garfield paragraph spends time on a cartoon character when real cat behaviours would be more convincing. Additionally, your paragraphs don't connect smoothly to each other; each one starts a new idea without linking back to what you said before. Try using phrases like "Another advantage cats have is..." or "Beyond their calm nature, cats also..." to help

your ideas flow. Your introduction also needs work—the opening sentence about "what and what" is confusing, and you don't need to repeat "sure" three times in a row. Instead, pick your strongest reason and explain it fully with facts, examples, or expert opinions. For your third paragraph, think about reorganising it so you discuss one main benefit (like space-saving) with two or three detailed supporting points before moving to your conclusion. Your ending feels rushed; a good conclusion should remind readers of your best two or three arguments and leave them thinking about why your view makes sense.

Overall Score: 41/50

Section 2

#1 Imagine a final showdown of a rivalry being what and what. [Imagine the ultimate rivalry between two beloved pets.] You might think a strong rivalry is like a leopard to a tiger, a monkey to an ape, but this one beats all rivalries in this world [:] Cats vs Dogs [cats versus dogs]. For many years, countless ancestors of ours have been debating about the final showdown [—] and which is [pet is] better. For countless decades, we have finally received an answer. [After observing both animals, the answer becomes clear.] It is absolutely a universal truth that cats are better than dogs. Sure, they're both cute. Sure, they're both cool. Sure, they're huggable, but most importantly, both share a rivalry between each other Cats are definitely better than dogs. [Whilst both animals have their charms, cats prove themselves superior for several important reasons.]

#2 Imagine being as lazy [relaxed] as Garfield, where everything basically goes his way. He gets everything he wants [:] food to have as a late-night snack, a pet dogand [, and] sleep. This is all you need to become as relaxed [content] as you want, with no interruptions at night~~, then taking you hostage~~. Cats do exactly that. Cats just eat food, have fun with you and sleep with no disturbances, unlike dogs. [Cats maintain a peaceful routine—they eat, play, and rest quietly without creating chaos.] Dogs bark at any scent, at any unfamiliar person. It's only trying to protect you, but it makes too many disturbances. [Whilst they're protecting you, the constant noise disrupts your household's peace.]

#3 While others [some people] say dogs are a man's best friend, I say cats are my best friend. Not only do they live longer than dogs, cats [but cats also] don't need to occupy that much space compared to dogs. Just a few toys, possibly a cat tower, a litter boxand [, and] a waterer [will suffice.] Dogs need a dog bed, which can sometimes cost a lot, and they make a mess of everything when you're at work. Imagine

yourself being a dog, thinking a ball is under the sofa. You push your large body into the small gap, only to charge straight at the wall with the sofa blocking your view. You broke your owner's vase on the tabletop where you crashed into. [You crash into the table and shatter your owner's vase.] What a mess!

And that is why cats are better than dogs.