

Section 1

#1: Opening Paragraph

Strengths:

- You clearly state your position right at the beginning, which helps readers understand your viewpoint immediately.
- Your tone is passionate and inviting, making readers feel like they're part of an important conversation.

Weakness: Vague Opposition

→ You mention "some argue" that paper books are outdated, but you don't explain who these people are or what their specific reasons might be. This makes your argument feel like it's fighting against a shadow rather than real concerns. When you write "some argue," readers don't know if you're talking about government officials, technology companies, or just a general feeling. To make your writing stronger, you could name specific groups or explain their actual reasons—perhaps they say digital books save money or reach more people. This would show you've thoughtfully considered the other side before disagreeing with it.

Exemplar: "While technology advocates and some council members suggest that digital-only libraries could reduce costs and reach wider audiences, I stand firmly against this idea."

#2: Environmental Stewardship Section

Strengths:

- You make an interesting comparison between physical books and electronic devices that readers might not have considered before.
- Your point about books being passed from person to person is memorable and easy to picture.

Weakness: Incomplete Comparison

→ Your environmental argument compares books and devices but leaves out important information. You mention that tablets "require constant energy consumption and disposal" and that "all tablets and e-readers will end up in some dump somewhere," but you don't discuss what happens to books when they're worn out or damaged. Libraries regularly dispose of old, damaged books, and paper production itself uses energy and resources like trees and water. By only showing one side of the environmental story—the problems with devices—your argument feels unbalanced. To strengthen this section, you could acknowledge that both options have environmental impacts, then explain why you still believe books are the better choice overall.

Exemplar: "Whilst both paper production and electronic devices have environmental costs, a physical book requires no charging, no software updates, and can serve hundreds of readers across many decades—making it a more sustainable long-term investment."

#3: Technological Inclusivity Section

Strengths:

- You identify a real problem that affects many families—the difficulty of affording internet and devices.
- Your specific examples (job seekers, students, government forms) help readers understand exactly who benefits from library access.

Weakness: Missed Opportunity for Connection

→ You explain that libraries provide computers and internet access, which is excellent, but then you suddenly jump to talking about e-books. This creates confusion because computers in libraries can actually provide access to e-books, so these two things aren't opposites. Your argument would be clearer if you explained that physical libraries can offer *both* traditional books *and* technology, making them even more valuable. The way it's currently written, in the phrase "if we rely only on e-books, we willingly exclude," it sounds like you're suggesting libraries should choose one or the other, when actually the best libraries offer both options to serve everyone's needs.

Exemplar: "Physical libraries bridge this digital divide by offering both traditional books and technology access—ensuring that whether someone prefers paper or screens, they can still access the knowledge they need."

■ Your piece presents a passionate defence of physical libraries with several compelling points, particularly around community value and access for people without technology at home. However, your argument would be much stronger if you engaged more thoroughly with the opposing viewpoint. Right now, you're arguing against a vague idea of "some people" who prefer digital, but readers will wonder: what exactly are their reasons, and why aren't those reasons good enough?

Additionally, your environmental section needs more balance—you've pointed out problems with devices but haven't acknowledged any environmental concerns about paper books, which makes your argument seem one-sided. Also, consider how your technological inclusivity section could be reorganised. You mention that libraries provide computers and internet, which is excellent, but then suggest that e-books would exclude people—when actually, those library computers could provide access to e-books too. Your strongest path forward is to argue that physical libraries should offer *both* options, not force people to choose.

To improve your piece, revisit your second paragraph ("Societal & Cultural Value") and add one specific example or short story—perhaps describe a real moment you witnessed at your local library, or share what a community member said about why the library matters to them. This would make your abstract ideas about "community meeting spaces" feel real and tangible. Furthermore, strengthen your environmental paragraph by acknowledging that book production does use resources, but then explain why you still believe books are more sustainable overall. This honest approach will make readers trust your argument more than if you only show one side.

Overall Score: 43/50

Section 2

#1 Dear Everyone,

I address you today on a topic foundational to our identity: the future of our physical libraries. In a world obsessed with screens and digital speed, some argue that real, paper books are outdated. I stand firmly against this idea. Public libraries filled with actual books are not something out of the past; they

are the most essential and equitable institutions in our communities, and we will do everything in our power to support and expand them now.

Societal & Cultural Value

A library is far more than a quiet room full of shelving. It is a living, beating heart—a true town ~~center~~ [centre] in itself. It is a warm, safe sanctuary where one and all are made to feel at home regardless of age, income, or background. Where ~~can you go to have~~ [else can you find] a college student sitting next to a group of elderly people enjoying a reading of poetry, and kids listening wide-eyed to Story Time?

Our libraries are cultural landmarks. They are community meeting spaces, learning spaces, and spaces in which we get to work with the real history of our town. Simply browsing through shelves and discovering a surprising tome returns us ~~in~~ [into] contact with generations past and stirs imagination that lists displayed on a screen can never aspire to generate. #2

Technological Inclusivity

~~Whereas~~ [Whilst] the virtual world pledges access, it more frequently erects obstacles. Not all families can afford ~~the~~ high-speed internet, and not all children possess an individual laptop for homework. The physical library closes this important digital divide.

It provides free computers, print facilities, and basic Wi-Fi access—a lifeline for job candidates, university students seeking university admission, and citizens who must contend with government forms. If we rely only on e-books, we willingly exclude the very people who most require free access to education. The library makes knowledge a right, not a privilege depending on monthly broadband ~~fee~~ [fees].

#3 Environmental Stewardship

We hear ~~a lot of~~ [many] arguments that paper books are environmentally unfriendly, but let's look at the real sustainability of the book compared to the gadget. A physical book has no charging to do, no software to update, and no dependence on rare earth minerals. It can be read by hundreds of people over dozens of years.

Electronic technology, handy as it is, requires constant energy consumption and disposal. All tablets and e-readers will end up in some dump somewhere. A beloved book, passed from hand to hand, is a far more durable and sustainable investment in information than a five-year screen.

Our libraries are not merely book guardians; they are also guardians of community, equality, and opportunity. They nourish the mind, bridge gaps, and provide places where true discovery can occur—the kind where pages rustle and where history has a scent.

Don't let complacency extinguish their lights. I urge you today: Visit your local library, obtain a library card, contribute your time or money back, and most importantly, speak with your local representatives. Make them aware that the preservation of our physical libraries is an absolute step towards a more robust, brighter, and united community. Let the pages turn for generations to come.