

Section 1

#1: Opening Paragraph

Strengths:

- Your opening clearly states the purpose of the letter right away, making it easy for the mayor to understand what you're asking for
- You mention the benefits of the clean-up (environmental health and community involvement), which shows you've thought about why this matters

Vague Purpose Statement → Whilst you mention wanting the mayor's "support," you haven't explained what specific help you need. Does "support" mean funding, promoting the event, providing council workers, or something else? The phrase "With your leadership and ours" sounds nice but doesn't tell the mayor what actions you want them to take. Being more specific would make your request clearer and easier for the mayor to respond to.

Exemplar: *"I am respectfully asking that you support a community river clean-up day by helping us secure permits, promoting the event through council channels, and providing waste disposal equipment."*

#2: Second Paragraph (River pollution discussion)

Strengths:

- You explain why river pollution is a problem by mentioning effects on wildlife and water sources, which helps the mayor understand the seriousness
- Connecting the general problem to "our own community" makes the issue feel local and urgent

Lack of Specific Evidence → Whilst you mention that "studies prove" certain facts about pollution, you don't provide any specific details about your local river. Phrases like "very evident pollution" and "a clear sign that something needs to be done" are general statements that could apply to any river anywhere. What exactly have you noticed along your river? How bad is the problem? Without specific

examples or descriptions from your community, your argument lacks the detail needed to convince the mayor that this is an urgent local issue.

Exemplar: *"Recent observations along the riverbank near Central Park have revealed accumulations of plastic bottles, shopping bags, and discarded fishing line, which pose immediate dangers to the ducks and fish that residents enjoy watching."*

#3: Fourth Paragraph (Awareness and education)

Strengths:

- You make an important point about how the clean-up can teach people about their own role in pollution
- Mentioning the younger generation shows you're thinking about long-term change, not just a one-time event

Underdeveloped Connection → The phrase "the majority of people have no clue" feels like an assumption rather than something you know about your community. You mention "inefficient management of waste or excessive use of plastic" but don't connect these practices to the river pollution you described earlier. How exactly would participating in a clean-up day help people understand these connections? The sentence "By means of a personal experience, individuals can realise how small behavioural changes can lead to huge differences" tells what might happen but doesn't explain how the clean-up would create this realisation.

Exemplar: *"When volunteers spend time removing dozens of drink bottles from the riverbank, they often become more aware of how their own choices about reusable containers can reduce this type of waste in the future."*

■ Your letter addresses an important community issue and shows genuine care for the environment. However, the content would be stronger if you added more specific details throughout. Instead of general statements about pollution and community benefits, try describing what you've actually seen along your local river. For example, in your second paragraph, you could mention specific types of rubbish, particular locations along the river, or even how the pollution has changed over time. Additionally, your request to the mayor needs to be much clearer. Think about exactly what help you

need—perhaps volunteers from council departments, bins and gloves for participants, or permission to use a council building as a meeting point. Your third paragraph makes good points about community involvement, but you could strengthen it by explaining how you would actually organise different groups to participate. Would schools come during class time? Would local businesses close early to let employees join? These concrete details would help the mayor understand your vision better. Also, in your fourth paragraph about awareness, try explaining the specific activities that would teach people during the clean-up day. Would there be signs explaining what rubbish damages the river? Would someone give a short talk? Making these connections clearer would show the mayor that you've planned how education would actually happen, not just that it would be nice if it did.

Overall Score: 41/50

Section 2

Subject: Request for Support: Community River Clean-Up Initiative

Dear Mayor Thompson,

#1 I am respectfully asking that you support a community river clean-up day. The initiative would not only improve the health of our community environment but also promote community involvement and civic pride. ~~With your leadership and ours, we can take substantial strides toward reclaiming our river and affirming sustainable practices benefiting all.~~ [With your support in securing permits, promoting the event through council channels, and providing waste disposal equipment, we can take substantial strides towards reclaiming our river and affirming sustainable practices that benefit all residents.]

#2 River pollution is a significant issue for ecosystems and human health. Studies prove that plastic ~~garbage~~ [rubbish], chemical leaching, and ~~garbage~~ [waste] lead to the degradation of freshwater resources, hurting wildlife and contaminating water sources. ~~Even within our own community, the very evident pollution along the rivers is a clear sign that something needs to be done.~~ [Within our own community, recent observations along the riverbank near Central Park have revealed accumulations of plastic bottles, shopping bags, and discarded fishing line—clear signs that immediate action is needed.]

A clean-up event would provide an opportunity to rid the area of toxic waste, reduce environmental danger, and provide a safer, more appealing location for recreation and wildlife.

Besides the ecological importance, this endeavour is a valuable opportunity to bring people together. A clean-up engages residents, schools, and agencies. It encourages responsibility and ~~ownership~~ [stewardship], ~~a reiteration~~ [reiterating] that we are all invested in safeguarding our public spaces. An event like this can have the ability to foster ~~increased~~ [stronger] relationships, collaboration, and long-term commitment to environmental protection.

#3 In addition, ~~organising~~ [organising] a clean-up day would also ~~make people aware of~~ [raise awareness about] the problem of pollution and how it affects them. ~~The majority of people have no clue how normal-sounding practices like inefficient management of waste or excessive use of plastic are actually contributing to the larger environmental problems.~~ [Many residents may not realise how everyday practices, such as inefficient waste management or excessive plastic use, contribute to the pollution we see along our riverbanks.] ~~By means of a personal experience~~ [Through direct participation], individuals can ~~realise~~ [recognise] how small behavioural changes can lead to ~~huge~~ [significant] differences. Such awareness is especially powerful with the younger generation, who will carry this forward.

I respectfully ask that you lend your support and help coordinate] a community river clean-up day this spring. Your help would be crucial in mobilising volunteers, procuring equipment, and helping to make the event a success. Together, we can restore our river to health, educate our community, and set a good example for other towns to follow.

Thank you for considering this proposal. I believe that ~~in~~ [with] your leadership, we can make a lasting difference.

Sincerely,

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