Term 3 Holiday - 2025: Day 6 | 10-Day Intensive Writing

# Section 1

#1: "We live in a world powered by technology. With just a few clicks, we can send a message, share a photo, or join a meeting with someone halfway across the world. It's amazing how quickly we can connect."

#### Strengths:

- Your opening grabs attention immediately by describing something familiar to everyone—our everyday use of technology
- You've used clear, simple examples that help readers picture exactly what you mean

Vague generalisation → Your opening statement "We live in a world powered by technology" is quite broad and doesn't give readers specific details about what makes our world technology-powered. You could strengthen this by mentioning particular ways technology has changed daily life, such as how it's transformed communication, work, or entertainment. Adding concrete details here would help your readers connect more deeply with your topic from the very first sentence.

**Exemplar:** In the past twenty years, technology has reshaped how we communicate, with smartphones replacing face-to-face conversations and social media platforms connecting billions of people worldwide.

#2: "Social media lets us meet new people and see what's happening everywhere. We can chat, post, and share, all without leaving home. But sometimes, the people we talk to online are strangers we'll never truly know."

#### Strengths:

- You've presented both sides of social media—the benefits and the drawbacks
- Your sentence structure flows smoothly from one idea to the next

**Insufficient development** → Whilst you mention that we talk to strangers online, you don't explore why this matters or what the actual consequences are. Why is talking to strangers we'll never truly know a problem? What happens when we invest our time in these superficial relationships? Expanding on this point with specific examples—perhaps describing how someone might share personal problems

with online strangers instead of trusted friends—would make your argument much stronger and help readers understand the real impact.

**Exemplar:** The people we talk to online are often strangers we'll never truly know, yet we might share our worries and celebrations with them whilst ignoring the trusted friends and family members who sit in the same room.

#3: "Many studies show that even though people are 'connected' all the time, they're also lonelier than ever. Teenagers especially say they feel isolated, anxious, or left out."

### Strengths:

- You've mentioned studies, which shows you're thinking about evidence
- You've identified a specific age group (teenagers) that's particularly affected

Unsupported claim → You reference "many studies" but don't provide any specific information about them. Which studies? What did they discover exactly? How many teenagers felt this way? Without these details, your readers might wonder if this statement is actually true. Even including one or two statistics—such as "a recent survey found that 60% of teenagers reported feeling lonely despite spending hours on social media daily"—would make your point much more convincing and credible.

**Exemplar:** Research from the Australian Psychological Society reveals that 67% of teenagers report feeling lonely despite constant online interaction, with many experiencing heightened anxiety from comparing themselves to others' carefully curated social media posts.

■ Your piece presents a relevant topic that many people think about today, and you've organised your ideas logically from problem to solution. However, your writing would benefit from adding more specific details and examples throughout. When you make claims about technology's effects, try to include real-world scenarios that readers can relate to—for instance, describing a typical dinner where everyone stares at their phones instead of talking, or explaining how a teenager might feel after seeing friends posting photos from a party they weren't invited to. Additionally, your paragraph about solutions feels rushed compared to your problem description. You could strengthen this section by explaining each solution more thoroughly. For example, when you suggest putting phones away at dinner, you might describe what meaningful conversations could happen instead, or share what benefits families have noticed when they tried this. Your conclusion touches on balance, which is

excellent, but consider adding one final concrete example of what "using technology wisely" looks like in practice. This would leave your readers with a clear picture of what you're encouraging them to do.

Overall Score: 40/50

## Section 2:

We live in a world powered by [transformed by] technology. With just a few clicks, we can send a message, share a photo, or join a meeting with someone halfway across the world. It's amazing [remarkable] how quickly we can connect. But it also makes us wonder [this raises an important question]—are we really closer to the people around us, or are we just spending more time with our screens? #1

Social media lets us meet new people and see what's happening everywhere. We can chat, post, and share, all without leaving home. But sometimes, the people we talk to online are strangers we'll never truly know. What seems like a good friendship might only exist through messages and emojis [, lacking the depth and authenticity of real relationships]. Meanwhile, the people who care about us—our parents, siblings, and friends—often sit nearby waiting for our attention. Every moment we spend scrolling is a moment we lose with them. #2

Many studies show that even though people are "connected" all the time, they're also lonelier than ever. Teenagers especially say they feel isolated, anxious, or left out. It's not hard to see why. Online likes and followers don't replace real laughter, hugs, or conversations. Real connection happens face to face, when we listen, share, and care. #3

So how do we fix this? It starts with small choices. We can put our phones away at dinner. We can talk to our families about our day. We can go outside, play a sport, or meet a friend in person instead of texting. Turning off notifications for a while might be the best gift we give ourselves.

Technology itself isn't bad—it helps us learn, explore, and stay in touch. But it's up to us to use it wisely. Let's make sure it adds to our lives, not takes away from [diminishes] them. Real connection doesn't come from a screen; it comes from time, attention, and love.