### Term 3 Holiday - 2025: Day 7 | 10-Day Intensive Selective Writing

#### Section 1

#1: "The sun, shooting Australian heat rays at the concrete, slowly cooking it. It stayed like this void until the community, watches as the town becomes more like a desert, bushes become dead shrubs, tree's leaves wither and die, floating on the air until it settles on the asphalt."

## Strengths:

- Your opening creates a strong visual picture of the harsh, hot environment with descriptive words like "cooking" and "wither"
- You've effectively shown the problem that needs solving, making readers understand why
  change is necessary

**Sentence fragments:** → Your opening uses incomplete sentences that don't work well together. "It stayed like this void until the community, watches as the town becomes more like a desert" mixes ideas awkwardly and has grammar issues with the comma placement and verb tense. The phrase "floating on the air until it settles" switches between present continuous and simple present tense in a confusing way.

**Exemplar:** The sun shot Australian heat rays at the concrete, slowly cooking it. The community watched as their town transformed into a desert: bushes became dead shrubs, and leaves withered and died, floating through the air before settling on the asphalt.

#2: "The park flourished with trees and plants, spreading curiosity and shade. It's not just the park that has received attention, it's everywhere! The whole town has gone from a desert to a happy community flourishing with many sights and colours."

### Strengths:

- You've captured the positive transformation effectively with the contrast between "desert" and "flourishing"
- Your enthusiasm comes through with the exclamation mark, showing genuine excitement about the change

Vague description: → Your writing tells readers the town improved but doesn't show specific details about what actually changed. Phrases like "received attention," "many sights and colours," and "happy community" are too general. What exactly did people add? What colours appeared? What specific sights can residents now see? Without these details, readers can't picture the transformation clearly.

**Exemplar:** Native eucalyptus trees now lined the streets, their grey-green leaves rustling in the breeze. Purple jacaranda blossoms decorated the footpaths, while community vegetable patches grew tomatoes, lettuce, and herbs along the main road.

#3: "Apartments and buildings consistently haves a plant or two thriving in each room. Houses frontward's grow with millions of plants. Pond's and river's thrive not only with plants and flowers, animals walk the earth with happy minds."

# Strengths:

- You've extended the garden concept beyond just the park to show community-wide participation
- You've included animals in your description, showing the environmental impact reaches beyond plants

Unclear and exaggerated language: → Your sentences contain several grammar errors and confusing phrases that make your ideas hard to follow. "Houses frontward's grow with millions of plants" uses incorrect punctuation and the word "millions" seems unrealistic. "Animals walk the earth with happy minds" is an unusual phrase because we can't know what animals think. The sentence "Pond's and river's thrive not only with plants and flowers, animals walk the earth" runs two separate ideas together without proper connection.

**Exemplar:** Apartments and buildings now have one or two plants thriving in each room. House front gardens burst with colourful native plants and vegetables. Ponds and rivers flourish with water plants and flowers, attracting native birds, frogs, and insects to the area.

■ Your piece addresses an important environmental topic and shows genuine care about community improvement and nature. The transformation from a harsh, desert-like town to a green, thriving community is a positive message. However, your writing would benefit greatly from more specific, concrete details throughout. Instead of saying the town has "many sights and colours," describe exactly

what people can see: perhaps red bottlebrush flowers, golden wattles, or community herb gardens with basil and mint.

Your writing also needs stronger paragraph organisation. Currently, ideas jump around—from the park to teaching activities to apartments—without smooth connections between topics. Try grouping similar ideas together: one paragraph about the physical changes to the town, another about the community activities and education, and a third about the long-term benefits. Additionally, some of your explanations feel rushed. The gardening activities section mentions that "people ignored this add-on but soon so many children were participating"—this change happens too quickly without explaining why people changed their minds.

Your piece would also improve by developing the "before and after" comparison more thoroughly. You describe the desert-like beginning briefly, but spend most of your writing on the improvements. Try balancing these sections to help readers appreciate the full transformation. Also, reconsider some phrases that don't quite work, like "trudge heavy books on baking pavements"—perhaps you meant "trudge across baking pavements while carrying heavy books." Finally, check your grammar carefully, particularly with apostrophes (tree's should be trees', pond's should be ponds) and subject-verb agreement (haves should be have).

Overall Score: 38/50

### Section 2

The resourceful community [#1 The Resourceful Community]

The sun, shooting shot Australian heat rays at the concrete, slowly cooking it. It stayed like this void until the community, watches The community watched as the town becomes became more like a desert,: bushes become became dead shrubs, tree's trees' leaves wither and die withered and died, floating on through the air until it settles before settling on the asphalt. Soon, the Eventually, the community has finally come came to its senses and a community garden was born! The park flourished with trees and plants, spreading curiosity and shade and sparking curiosity. It's It wasn't just the park that has received attention, it's—it was everywhere! The whole town has gone transformed from a desert to into a happy thriving community flourishing bursting with many sights and colours greenery and vibrant colours. Residents from all over town are were extremely impressed and joyful. "I'm so glad

they finally added some new additions features to this place!" Adult said one adult. "This is so much better,—now I don't have to trudge heavy books on baking across baking pavements anymore while carrying heavy books!"

They #2 The community also added gardening activities for teaching students the importance of nature as it can impact your garden and its impact on the environment. At first, people ignored this add-on additionbut, but soon so many children were participatingthat parents were also tuning in as began joining in to help as teachers. There is even more to this, the Even better, the plants and trees all grow grew nutritious fruits. "Every time the plants grow fruitwe, we will carefully pluck them off it and give them it to anyone who needs it.," explained the garden coordinator. What started as a desolate, deserted town became somewhere a place everyone can could enjoy and have fun.

Apartments and buildings consistently haves #3 Apartments and buildings now had a plant or two thriving in each room. Houses frontward's grow with millions of plants. Pond's and river's thrive not only with plants and flowers, animals walk the earth with happy minds. House front gardens grew abundant with native plants and vegetables. Ponds and rivers thrived with plants and flowers, while animals—from ducks to possums—flourished in the revitalised environment. "Quack quack quack" duck!" called a duck: as it paddled across the pond. By the fourth month, there are were over 1000 people contributing to the eventsand, and each received a medal as a sign of gratitude.

Every Sunday, the sun's out and the shone as children and laughing and playing while having fun laughed and played together. The whole town has had become a paradise for naturelike an extra shield, providing protection, and animal populations are were significantly stable thriving and stable. If we could expand communities everywhere expanded these events and contributions, the earth could be world would be even better.

Jayden D

#### Section 1

#1: Opening paragraph - "The sun, shooting out violent Australian rays...settle on the asphalt."

# Strengths:

- Your imagery is vivid and creative, especially how you describe the leaves as "feathers" floating
- You effectively show the transformation from a lively place to a barren one through contrasting descriptions

Vague Scene-Setting → Your opening creates atmosphere but doesn't clearly establish where we are or when this is happening. You mention "this is a town" three times in quick succession, but we never learn the town's name, its location in Australia, or any specific details that would help readers picture it. The phrase "a town that isn't a town anymore" is poetic but confusing—what does this actually mean? Has everyone left? Is it abandoned? Additionally, the transition from describing the heat to suddenly mentioning people with protest signs feels abrupt, as though two different scenes have been pushed together without connection.

Exemplar: Before the protest on 15th February, Riverside had been a bustling coastal town, but three years of drought had transformed its once-green parks into patches of cracked earth.

#2: Middle section - "They had everything possible...anyone who needs it."

## Strengths:

- You show enthusiasm for the community garden through the children's excitement
- The idea of sharing fruit with people who need it demonstrates community values

**Underdeveloped Impact** → Your writing tells us what the garden has (flowers, trees, plants) but doesn't help us see or experience it. What types of flowers bloomed first? What did the gardeners actually teach during those Sunday lessons? You mention children growing "some of their one plants" (which should be "own"), but we don't see any specific child's experience or hear what they learned. The mayor's quote appears incomplete and lacks proper punctuation at the end. More importantly,

you've skipped over the actual process—how did the community garden get built? Who helped? How long did it take? These details would make your story feel more real and substantial.

Exemplar: During the first Sunday lesson, old Mr. Chen taught the children how to prepare soil, showing them how to mix in compost until the earth felt soft and crumbly between their fingers. Ten-year-old Maya planted her first tomato seedling, carefully patting down the soil just as he'd demonstrated.

## #3: Conclusion - "I love how they added...amazing contributions of this town."

## Strengths:

- You include different perspectives (adult, student, and even a duck!)
- Your positive ending shows the transformation was successful

Weak Supporting Evidence → Your conclusion relies on brief quotes that don't provide enough detail to be convincing. The adult's quote is extremely general—"these new things" and "so nice" don't tell us anything specific about what changed or why it matters. The student's comment about shade is more concrete, but it's the only specific benefit mentioned. The duck's "quack quack quack" with the label "cool duck" seems more like a joke than a genuine part of your narrative. You claim "animals have been joyful to see their old home's environment," but you haven't shown us any animals returning or described how the environment changed for them. Your final sentence makes a big claim about the town becoming "a paradise for nature" and "a great city," but you haven't provided enough examples of actual changes to support this conclusion.

Exemplar: Local birdwatcher Mrs. Patel documented the changes, noting that rainbow lorikeets returned to nest in the new eucalyptus trees, and the morning chorus of magpies grew louder each week. "Before the garden, I'd spot maybe three bird species on my morning walk," she explained. "Now I count over fifteen different types regularly."

■Your piece shows genuine enthusiasm for environmental themes and community action, which creates an engaging tone throughout. However, your writing would benefit from adding more specific details and concrete examples to support your main ideas. Right now, you're telling readers that the garden improved the town, but you're not showing them how through detailed scenes or precise

descriptions. Think about including specific moments—perhaps describe the opening day of the garden, or follow one family's experience from start to finish.

Additionally, your structure needs strengthening in places. The jump from describing the heat to suddenly mentioning protesters feels disconnected because you haven't explained what prompted people to finally take action. Consider adding a bridging sentence that shows what specific event or realisation motivated the community to demand change.

Also, develop your characters more fully. The mayor appears twice but we don't see him making the decision or working with the community. The gardeners teach lessons but we never witness what they actually say or do. By zooming in on specific people and moments rather than making general statements, you'll create a more convincing and engaging narrative. Your quotes from the adult and student are too vague—have them mention particular features of the garden they enjoy or specific ways their daily lives improved. Finally, proofread carefully to catch errors like "one" instead of "own" and incomplete quotations, as these small mistakes can distract readers from your otherwise creative ideas.

Overall Score: 39/50

#### Section 2:

#1 The sun, shooting out violent Australian rays, baking [was baking] the concrete[and] making it look like it could cook an egg. Lively bushes become [became] dead shrubs[;] thriving trees and plants wither [withered] and slowly die [died] out, dropping their feathers [leaves] as they float [floated] on the air and settle [settled] on the asphalt. This is [was] a town that's [that was] void from [of] shade, a town that's [that had] become a desert, a town that isn't [was no longer] a town anymore. People urgently argue [argued] and propose [protested] with signs reading["] "We shall fight for the [our] nature as it fights for us !!![!]"[."]

#2 On the day of 20th of February [20 February], the mayor finally came to his senses[and] and soon the "Community Garden" [Community Garden] was born. They had everything possible[:] flowers, trees[and] and plants. They even had lessons every Sunday on gardening, teaching the students the importance of nature. Every Sunday, children would rush out of their homes screaming["] "It's time to go to the park!" [!"] and [The] the gardeners would explain to the students on [about] flowers and nature. They usually let the children grow some of their one [own] plants. That's [That was] not

all[—] those [the] trees and plants all grow [grew] plants [fruit,] and the mayor has [had] quoted[:] "["] Every time they have grown fruits [fruit], we will carefully pluck them [it] off and give them [it] to anyone who needs it.["]

#3 [Adult resident Sarah Martinez commented,] "["]I love how they added all these new things [features to our neighbourhood], it's so nice. [wonderful."] "Adult [Year 6 student James Chen added,] "["]I love all these new spots of shades [shade]; [—] now I don't have to go [walk] on baking pavements to school. [."] Student And it's not only the people that are [who were] happy[;] it's the [also the] animals that have been [were] joyful to see their old home's [home's] environment: [restored.] "Quack quack" cool duck. [Native waterfowl returned to the newly installed pond, their calls echoing across the revitalised green space.]

This town has [had] become a paradise for nature as it has [had] become a great city, all because of this mayor and the amazing contributions of this town. ['s residents.]