

Section 1

#1: Opening Hook and Introduction "Have you ever stood by the Parramatta River and wondered what stories its waters could tell if only they weren't clouded by plastic, debris, and pollution? Our river, once a thriving artery of life and connection, now struggles under the weight of human neglect."

Strengths:

- Your opening question immediately draws readers in and creates a personal connection to the river
- The image of the river as a "thriving artery of life" effectively shows its importance to the community

Weak Transition Between Evidence and Purpose → Your writing jumps from global statistics to your proposal without clearly connecting the Australian data to your local river. You mention that "studies show that microplastics have been found in 100% of tested Australian rivers" but don't explain what this means specifically for Parramatta River or why action is urgent right now. The phrase "This isn't just an environmental issue it's a community one" needs development—you tell us it's a community issue but don't show how it affects community members' daily lives.

Exemplar: *After presenting the statistics, you could write: "Right here in Parramatta, these microplastics threaten the very fish our children spot from the riverbank and contaminate the water where families gather for weekend picnics. When our river suffers, our community's health and enjoyment suffer too."*

#2: Environmental Impact and Participation Sections "Environmental Impact: Cleaning the river helps protect local wildlife, from fish to birds, that rely on clean water to survive. It also improves water quality, making the area safer for recreational use and reducing long-term ecological damage. Participation: Imagine the power of 50 volunteers working side by side families, students, retirees each contributing a few hours to make a lasting difference."

Strengths:

- Your list of needed supplies is clear and practical, helping readers understand exactly what's required
- The image of different community members (families, students, retirees) working together creates an inclusive vision

Underdeveloped Supporting Details → Your environmental impact section tells readers the general benefits but lacks specific examples that would make the argument stronger. Phrases like "helps protect local wildlife" and "improves water quality" are too vague—your readers would benefit from knowing which exact species live in or near the Parramatta River and how pollution specifically harms them. Similarly, "safer for recreational use" doesn't explain what dangers currently exist or what activities people could enjoy once the river is cleaner.

Exemplar: *"Cleaning the river protects the blue-banded bee-eaters that nest along the riverbanks and the Australian bass that spawn in these waters each spring. With cleaner water, children can safely wade in the shallow areas again, and kayakers won't have to navigate through floating rubbish."*

#3: Call to Action "So I ask you: if not us, then who? If not now, then when? Let's come together to give our river a voice again. I'm happy to coordinate logistics, but I need your support to spread the word, gather supplies, and rally volunteers."

Strengths:

- Your rhetorical questions create a sense of urgency and personal responsibility
- You clearly state your own commitment by offering to coordinate logistics

Vague Action Steps → While your writing asks readers for support, it doesn't provide clear instructions on how to actually help. The phrases "spread the word," "gather supplies," and "rally volunteers" are too general—readers who want to participate won't know their first step. Your closing line "Please let me know if the group is willing to sponsor or support this initiative" is unclear because you haven't specified which group you're addressing or what kind of sponsorship you need (money, equipment, promotion, or something else).

Exemplar: *"Here's how you can help: reply to this message by October 5th to register as a volunteer, donate unused gardening gloves or rubbish bags to the collection point at the community centre, or share this proposal with three neighbours this week. If your business can sponsor supplies or refreshments, please contact me directly at [contact details]."*

■ Your piece demonstrates genuine passion for the Parramatta River and presents a worthwhile community initiative, but it needs stronger development in several areas to convince readers to take action. The statistics you've included show you understand the problem's seriousness, yet your writing would benefit from connecting these facts more directly to your local situation. Additionally, your second paragraph introducing the environmental impact and participation details feels rushed—you've listed important points but haven't explained them thoroughly enough to persuade readers why this particular clean-up day matters. Consider expanding your environmental impact section by researching which specific plants and animals live in the Parramatta River ecosystem and explaining exactly how rubbish harms them. Your participation section could be strengthened by describing what volunteers will actually do during the event—will they work in teams, focus on particular areas, or learn special techniques for collecting rubbish safely? Also, think about adding a paragraph that addresses potential concerns readers might have, such as "What if I've never done this before?" or "Is it safe for children to participate?" Finally, your call to action needs concrete, numbered steps that make it easy for different types of supporters (volunteers, donors, promoters) to know exactly what to do next and by when.

Overall Score: 40/50

Section 2

#1 Have you ever stood by the Parramatta River and wondered what stories its waters could tell if only they weren't clouded by plastic, debris, and pollution?

Our river, once a thriving artery of life and connection, now struggles under the weight of human neglect. According to the Australian Marine Conservation Society, over 8 million tonnes of plastic enter waterways globally each year, and rivers like ours act as conveyor belts, carrying this waste straight to the ocean. Closer to home, studies show that microplastics have been found in 100% of tested Australian rivers. ~~This isn't just an environmental issue—it's a community one.~~ [This isn't just an environmental issue—it's a community one.]

~~That's why I propose we organize~~ [#1 That's why I propose we organise] a River Clean Up Day on Saturday, October 12th, to restore the health and beauty of our local river. This initiative will not only reduce pollution but also strengthen our community's bond and raise awareness about sustainable living.

~~Environmental Impact:~~ [#2 **Environmental Impact:**] Cleaning the river helps protect local wildlife, from fish to birds, that rely on clean water to survive. It also improves water quality, making the area safer for recreational use and reducing long-term ecological damage.

~~Participation:~~ [#2 **Participation:**] Imagine the power of 50 volunteers working side by side ~~families, students, retirees~~ [—families, students, retirees—] each contributing a few hours to make a lasting difference. We'll need:

- 50 volunteers
- 30 pairs of gloves
- 20 garbage bags
- 10 litter pickers

Awareness: This event will serve as a wake-up call. How often do we walk past litter without a second thought? How many of us know that rivers are one of the main sources of ocean pollution? By participating, we educate ourselves and others, creating ripple effects of change.

#3 So I ask you: if not us, then who? If not now, then when?

Let's come together to give our river a voice again. #3 I'm happy to coordinate logistics, but I need your support to spread the word, gather supplies, and rally volunteers. Together, we can turn one day of action into a legacy of care.

#3 Please let me know if the group is willing to sponsor or support this initiative. Our river is waiting.

Warm regards, Bersi