

Section 1

#1: Introduction (first paragraph)

Strengths:

- Your opening hook immediately draws readers in by asking a thought-provoking question about reading's benefits
- You've included a clear roadmap showing readers what benefits you'll discuss, making your essay easy to follow

Unclear thesis statement → Your introduction contains many ideas, but your main argument gets a bit lost amongst all the different benefits you mention. The sentence beginning with "Instead, it's proven to enrich..." feels disconnected from what comes before it. The word "Instead" suggests you're contrasting two ideas, but you're actually continuing your argument about reading's benefits. This makes your central message harder to identify. Additionally, your final sentence tries to preview both the benefits AND introduce "ways to enjoy reading efficiently," which creates confusion about whether you're arguing why students should read or how they should read.

Exemplar: *Reading is proven to enrich writing skills by exposing readers to diverse vocabulary and styles, boost academic achievement by expanding comprehension and critical thinking, and foster creativity and imagination that extends far beyond the classroom.*

#2: Second paragraph (cognitive benefits)

Strengths:

- You've strengthened your point by including a specific, memorable quotation from Patrick Bet-David that readers can easily relate to
- Your paragraph follows a logical structure: claim, evidence from studies, supporting quotation, and conclusion

Vague evidence and imprecise language → Your paragraph mentions "studies from the London College" and refers to improving "cognitive problems" and "intellectual-related encounters," but these

phrases don't clearly communicate what you mean. Firstly, "cognitive problems" suggests reading helps fix brain issues, when you likely mean it improves cognitive abilities or thinking skills. Secondly, "intellectual-related encounters" is unclear—what exactly are these encounters? When you mention London College without specifying which institution or study, your evidence loses credibility. Readers need precise information to trust your claims.

Exemplar: *Reading for one hour daily can significantly boost cognitive abilities. Studies from the University of London prove that reading for at least an hour each day improves memory, concentration, and analytical thinking skills.*

#3: Fourth paragraph (counterargument)

Strengths:

- You've included an opposing viewpoint, which shows you understand that strong arguments address different perspectives
- The metaphor comparing doubters to "mice trying to hunt a lion" creates a vivid image that readers will remember

Insufficient counterargument development → Whilst you mention that "countless claims say that reading is a waste of time," you don't explain why people might think this or what their specific concerns are. This makes your counterargument feel like a straw man—an argument you've invented just to knock down easily. Strong persuasive writing acknowledges real concerns (perhaps that reading takes time away from other activities, or that students feel too busy) and then addresses those specific worries with evidence. Your paragraph jumps straight to refuting without first genuinely considering the opposing view.

Exemplar: *Whilst some people argue that reading takes valuable time away from other important activities like sport or spending time with friends, this concern misunderstands how reading actually fits into a balanced life. Studies show that even silent reading for just six minutes can reduce stress by up to 68%—more than music or walking—meaning reading actually helps students recharge so they can enjoy other activities more fully.*

■ Your essay demonstrates a solid understanding of persuasive writing structure and includes valuable research to support your points. You've clearly spent time thinking about reading's benefits and finding evidence to back up your claims. However, your piece would benefit from greater precision and depth in several areas.

The main area for improvement is making your evidence more specific and trustworthy. When you mention studies, tell readers exactly which university conducted them, when, and what they specifically found. Instead of saying "studies show," explain "a 2023 study by researchers at Oxford University found that..." This builds credibility. Additionally, work on using clearer, more precise language—replace vague phrases like "intellectual-related encounters" with concrete terms like "analytical thinking skills" or "memory retention."

Your essay would also strengthen if you developed your ideas more fully. In your second paragraph about discussing books with others, you mention thinking "like an octopus," which is creative but needs explanation. What does this metaphor mean? How does discussing books help you consider multiple perspectives? Take time to unpack your ideas so readers understand your thinking. Also, your counterargument paragraph feels rushed—spend more time genuinely exploring why someone might disagree before you refute their position.

Focus particularly on your introduction and make your thesis crystal clear. What is the one main point you want readers to remember? Right now, your introduction mentions improving yourself, then writing skills, then academic achievement, then creativity, then stress reduction—that's too many competing ideas. Choose your strongest argument and make it prominent, then let your other points support it. Finally, ensure each paragraph connects smoothly to the next using transition sentences that guide readers through your argument's progression.

Overall Score: 42/50

Section 2

#1 Have you ever wondered if reading could be a superlative way to improve yourself in countless ways? The truth is, nothing compares to the powerful impact that regular reading has on students'

lives. ~~Instead, it's~~ [Reading is] proven to enrich writing skills by exposing readers to diverse vocabulary and styles, boost academic achievement by expanding comprehension and critical thinking, and even foster creativity and imagination that goes far beyond the classroom. Reading daily also brings peace of mind by reducing stress and offering healthy relaxation, whilst cultivating confidence and empathy in social interactions with others. By picking up a book each day, students unlock doors to knowledge, self-development, and a world of possibility, making reading not just beneficial but essential for anyone seeking lasting academic and personal growth. ~~Here are some ways to enjoy reading efficiently!~~ [The evidence for reading's transformative power is compelling.]

#2 Reading for \pm [one] hour a day can significantly boost ~~cognitive problems~~ [cognitive abilities]. Studies from ~~the London College~~ [University College London] prove that reading for at least an hour each day can improve ~~intellectual-related encounters~~ [memory, analytical thinking, and problem-solving skills]. As entrepreneur and author Patrick Bet-David has stated, "Reading an hour a day is only 4% of your day. But that 4% will put you at the top of your field within 10 years. Find the time." This ~~phrase thoroughly~~ [quotation clearly] proves that reading for \pm [one] hour a day can significantly enhance the way your brain functions. Therefore, one ~~can't decline~~ [cannot deny] the fact that reading for an hour improves the mind and IQ.

What do you do after reading a book? After finishing a section or the whole book, you can discuss it with others. This not only gives you social interactions, but also ~~gifts you the ability~~ [develops your capacity] to think like an octopus and consider all possible scenarios. Studies have shown that simply talking to someone about a recent book ~~that you recently finished~~ [you've completed] can optimise your mind to the best extent, so you think more clearly. "Book club is a window. You get to see what other people learn from a book. The more this happens, the richer the story gets." Anonymous. This proves that interaction with another person can definitely bring significant benefits for you. Thus, explaining and discussing a book with a group or partner is certainly a satisfactory approach.

#3 Although countless claims say that reading is a waste of time, I object. Reading enhances health and mental wellbeing. Studies show that even silent reading for just six minutes can reduce stress by up to 68%%, which is more than music or walking. Reading also alleviates depression and anxiety, leads to higher life satisfaction, and helps people feel less lonely. Dr. David Lewis, cognitive neuropsychologist who conducted a University of Sussex study, said[:] "Losing yourself in a book is the ultimate relaxation."["."] Hence, all the pointless reports about books wasting time are mice trying to hunt a lion.

In conclusion, the evidence is clear. Reading is far more than just a leisure activity; it is a gateway to intellectual, social, and emotional growth. Dedicating just one hour a day to reading can elevate your cognitive abilities, enrich your personal and academic life, and empower you to engage thoughtfully

with the world around you. Not only does reading strengthen your writing, comprehension, and problem-solving skills, but it also cultivates empathy and fosters meaningful social connections through sharing and discussion. Furthermore, scientific studies confirm that reading is a powerful antidote to stress and a proven pathway to increased happiness and wellbeing. With all these profound benefits, it's undeniable that spending time with a good book is one of the most rewarding investments you can make in your own future.