

Section 1:

#1: Opening paragraph "Did you know our rivers and lakes are getting polluted at 343,000,000 kilograms per year? I am writing to you to implement river cleanups in Sydney starting from October 8 2025."

Strengths:

- Your opening grabs attention with a striking statistic that immediately shows the scale of the problem
- You clearly state your purpose early, so the mayor knows exactly what action you're requesting

Unclear connection between ideas → Your letter jumps from the pollution statistic directly to requesting cleanups without explaining how the cleanups will address the specific amount of pollution you mentioned. The connection between "343,000,000 kilograms per year" and "river cleanups starting from October 8" isn't clear. Will these cleanups target this entire amount? How frequently would they occur? Your reader needs to understand how your solution matches the size of the problem you've described.

Exemplar: *"Did you know our rivers and lakes are polluted with 343,000,000 kilograms of waste per year? To tackle this enormous problem, I am writing to request weekly river cleanups throughout Sydney, beginning on 8 October 2025."*

#2: Second body paragraph "My second point as to why we should implement local river cleanups in Sydney is because it makes the drinking water more dangerous to drink. Imagine pouring water into your mouth knowing that there could be oil or plastic in it."

Strengths:

- Your use of "imagine" helps the reader visualise the problem in a personal way
- You identify specific pollutants (oil and plastic) which makes the danger more concrete

Repetitive phrasing → You use the phrase "dangerous to drink" or "unsafe to drink" three times in this one paragraph ("makes the drinking water more dangerous to drink," "Pollution in our drinking water," and "unsafe to drink and swim in"). This repetition weakens your argument because it doesn't

add new information each time. Instead, you could explain different consequences or provide specific details about what happens when people drink polluted water, such as which illnesses they might develop or how the treatment process fails.

Exemplar: *"My second point is that pollution threatens our drinking water supply. Imagine pouring water into your mouth knowing that it contains oil or plastic particles, which can cause serious stomach illnesses and long-term health problems."*

#3: Third body paragraph "Do you think swimming in polluted water is anymore safe than swimming in lava? I thought not."

Strengths:

- Your rhetorical question engages the reader and challenges them to think about the issue

Unhelpful comparison → Comparing polluted water to lava doesn't strengthen your argument because these two things are completely different dangers. Everyone knows lava would kill you instantly, but polluted water's dangers are more gradual and complex. This comparison is so extreme that it might make your reader question whether you understand the real risks of water pollution. Instead, you could compare polluted water to something more realistic, like untreated sewage or contaminated drinking water from other cities, which would help your reader understand the actual level of danger.

Exemplar: *"Swimming in chemically polluted water poses serious risks, similar to swimming in water contaminated with sewage, where harmful bacteria and toxins can enter your body."*

■ Your persuasive letter tackles an important environmental issue and shows genuine concern for Sydney's waterways. You've structured your argument around three clear points about how pollution affects sea life, drinking water and swimming safety, which helps organise your ideas. However, your piece would benefit from developing each point more thoroughly with specific details and evidence. For instance, when you mention "lots of Sydney lives have been lost because they drink polluted water," you need to provide actual examples or explain which areas of Sydney face this problem. Your arguments sometimes repeat the same idea without adding new information, particularly in your second paragraph where "dangerous to drink" appears multiple times. Additionally, you could strengthen your letter by explaining exactly how your proposed river cleanups would work—would

volunteers collect rubbish weekly? Would the council hire staff? What equipment would be needed? Your conclusion effectively summarises your main concern, but instead of saying "thousands of lives" repeatedly, you could specify which groups are most at risk (perhaps children playing near waterways, or families who fish in local rivers). Also, your second body paragraph would be stronger if you connected the point about rubbish blowing into rivers (from your first paragraph) to the drinking water issue, showing how the same pollution affects multiple problems. Finally, consider adding a paragraph about successful cleanups in other Australian cities to show the mayor that your solution has worked elsewhere.

Overall Score: 40/50

Section 2:

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Dear Esteemed Mayor Moore,

#1 Did you know our rivers and lakes are getting polluted at 343,000,000 kilograms per year? I am writing to you to ~~implement~~ **[request that you implement]** river cleanups in Sydney [~~—specifically,~~] starting from October 8 2025 . Water pollution is killing our sea life, making drinking water less safe in our community and is making the water too dirty to swim in. Do you really think not doing anything about pollution is helping to ~~makeover~~ **[make our]** community a better place? The stewardship humans have on our bodies of water is worsening each year.

Firstly, we must implement water cleaning~~everyday~~ **[every day]** from now on so that it doesn't kill our sea life in the lakes and rivers of Sydney. Statistics show that while more people are happy with the things that they buy~~the~~ **[, the]** oceans are not. Whenever people buy something~~they~~ **[, they]** throw the rubbish away~~and~~ **[, and]** the wind pulls it into our local rivers. This is hazardous to our ecosystem and must be stopped. Polluting the river like this makes ~~or~~ **[our]** drinking water risky and dangerous to drink.

#2 My second point as to why we should implement local river cleanups in Sydney is ~~because it~~ **[that pollution]** makes the drinking water more dangerous to drink. Imagine pouring water into your mouth knowing that there could be oil or plastic in it. Pollution in our drinking water puts our ~~life~~ **[lives]** at risk. For example~~lots~~ **[, many]** Sydney lives have been lost because they drink polluted water

[.] ~~the~~ **[The]** water is mainly polluted by chemicals~~which~~ **[, which]** not only makes water ~~usage~~ **[unsafe]** to drink~~but~~ **[, but]** chemicals going on your skin can also be deadly. Water pollution makes it unsafe to drink and swim in.

#3 Do you think swimming in polluted water is ~~anymore~~ **[any more]** safe than swimming in lava? I thought not. This addresses my third and final point for why we should implement weekly water body cleaning. Swimming in polluted waters~~which are~~ **[, which are]** polluted mainly by chemicals~~is~~ **[, is]** unsafe for the human ~~bodies~~ **[body]**. This water can go into your mouth while swimming and can seep through your skin over time. This is toxic for the body and can cause death. These pollutants and chemicals can be ~~stoped~~ **[stopped]** if big companies or scientists did their work in a restricted location. These chemicals also contribute to climate change~~making~~ **[, making]** biodiversity of our rivers and lakes decrease over the past years.

In conclusion~~water~~ **[, water]** pollution has been getting out of hand~~and~~ **[, and]** we need to stop it. Many lives have been lost to ~~waterr~~ **[water]** pollution~~and~~ **[, and]** ~~we~~ **[if we]** implement weekly water cleaning in our day~~to~~**[-to-]**day lives~~we~~ **[, we]** can save thousands of lives. Doing this will keep Sydney one of the safest places in the world. I hope you act fast and ~~this~~ **[think about this]** carefully. Make the right choice~~and~~ **[, and]** you can save thousands of lives. Sydney's fate is in your hands.