

Section 1:

#1: Opening paragraph (*"Imagine a child running across the grassy field... because we've stopped noticing it."*)

Strengths:

- Your vivid imagery immediately draws readers into the scene, making them visualise the contrast between natural beauty and litter
- The personal connection creates an emotional hook that makes readers care about the park's condition

Vague transition and incomplete argument development → Your opening establishes a strong scene but doesn't clearly connect the crushed can to the broader problem. The phrase "because we've stopped noticing it" needs more explanation—what does "noticing" mean here? Are people ignoring existing litter, or are they the ones creating it? Your writing would benefit from clarifying whether the problem is littering behaviour or lack of clean-up efforts, as these require different solutions.

Exemplar: *This isn't a rare scene anymore. Our park, once a place buzzing with families, birds and busy bees, is slowly drowning in litter—and it's happening because we walk past rubbish without picking it up, treating our shared space as if it's someone else's responsibility.*

#2: Statistics and expert opinion (*"Last week, I visited Dr Patel... it affects everyone, including you."*)

Strengths:

- Including an expert opinion strengthens your credibility and shows you've sought outside information
- The statistic about ocean waste adds factual weight to your argument

Unclear relevance and missing context → The connection between Dr Patel's expertise and park litter isn't established—readers don't know who Dr Patel is or why her opinion matters here. Is she an environmental scientist, a local council member, or a doctor concerned about health impacts? Additionally, the jump from park litter to ocean pollution feels disconnected. Your writing needs to explain how local park rubbish travels to the ocean, otherwise readers might wonder why ocean statistics matter for their neighbourhood park.

Exemplar: *Last week, I spoke with Dr Patel, our local environmental officer, who explained that litter doesn't just ruin the beauty of our shared spaces—it travels through stormwater drains into waterways and eventually reaches the ocean, where research shows 40 per cent of waste originates from land-based litter.*

#3: Call to action (*"If you want to help... the smallest act can make the biggest difference!"*)

Strengths:

- Your direct appeal motivates readers to take immediate action rather than feeling helpless
- The message about small acts creating change is encouraging and achievable

Repetitive structure and shallow action steps → The repeated sentence pattern "Think about the..." creates a monotonous rhythm that weakens your persuasive impact. More importantly, your suggested action—"picking up tiny pieces of rubbish near you"—is too general and doesn't provide practical guidance. Readers might wonder: Should they bring bags? Visit during specific times? Join an organised group? Your writing would be more effective if you offered concrete steps, such as suggesting they carry a small bag on park visits or organising a weekend clean-up with neighbours.

Exemplar: *If you want to stop our community from becoming a dump, start by bringing a small bag on your next park visit and collecting rubbish you spot along your path. Better yet, ask your family or neighbours to join you for a Saturday morning clean-up—together, we can restore our park to the beautiful space it deserves to be.*

■ Your piece delivers a clear environmental message with genuine concern for your local park, but it needs deeper development in several areas. Your argument would be stronger if you explained the specific pathway from park litter to environmental harm, rather than jumping to ocean pollution without showing the connection. Additionally, your writing relies heavily on emotional appeals through repetition ("Think about...") when it could benefit from more varied persuasive techniques, such as explaining consequences or offering relatable scenarios. The expert opinion from Dr Patel feels dropped into the text without proper introduction or relevance. Consider expanding paragraph three to include her credentials and explain why her perspective matters specifically to your park's situation. Also, your call to action could be more practical—instead of saying "pick up tiny pieces of rubbish," provide specific steps like "bring a reusable bag on your next walk" or "spend ten minutes each visit collecting litter near the playground." These concrete suggestions make your message more actionable and realistic for readers.

Overall Score: 39/50

Section 2:

#1 Imagine a child running across the grassy field at our local park, laughing, sun shining, only to stop suddenly because a crushed energy drink can is wedged in the mud where wildflowers used to grow. This isn't a rare scene anymore. Our park, once a place buzzing with families, birds and busy bees, is slowly

drowning in litter. ~~And it's happening because we've stopped noticing it.~~ [It's happening because we walk past rubbish without taking responsibility for our shared space.]

#2 Just last week, I visited the park for what I hoped would be a quiet afternoon. Instead, I counted 67 pieces of rubbish on just one footpath. Plastic wrappers tangled in the bushes, bottles rolling under benches, and takeaway bags drifting in the once beautiful field.

Last week, I ~~visited~~ [spoke with] Dr Patel, ~~and she explained clearly~~ [our local environmental officer, who explained] that rubbish not only ruins the beautiful look of our shared community but also pollutes the ~~place~~ [environment]. Research shows a whopping 40 ~~percent~~ [per cent] of waste in the ocean ~~is~~ [originates] from ~~our~~ [land-based] litter. "If we choose to litter, it affects everyone, including you. [.]

#3 Think about the little birds that hop around the grass. Think about the butterflies that fly near the flowers. Think about the trees that give us shade in summer. They all need our help right now. If we don't act soon, our park will become dull, dirty and quiet, without the animals and nature we love.

If you want to help the community from becoming a dump, you can start helping now by ~~picking up tiny pieces of rubbish near you~~ [bringing a small bag on your next park visit and collecting rubbish you spot along your path]. Every bit of litter you pick up makes a big difference in our community. What are you waiting for? Go make a difference now! Always remember, the smallest act can make the biggest difference!