

## WEEK 8

### Section 1

#### #1: Opening Paragraph

##### Strengths:

- Your opening creates a powerful mood by using sounds and images that help readers picture the emergency situation clearly.
- The comparison between a sports complex and police station is presented clearly, showing you understand the main argument you need to make.

**Lack of Logical Development** → Your paragraph jumps from the dramatic opening scene straight to mentioning a sports complex without explaining how these ideas connect. The phrase "While a sports complex offers entertainment and recreation" appears suddenly, leaving readers confused about why you're discussing sports facilities. You need to build a bridge between your opening description and your main argument by explaining the situation your town faces—that there's a choice between building these two facilities.

**Exemplar:** *Before comparing the two options, you could add: "Our town council currently faces an important decision: should we invest in a new sports complex or a modern police station? Given the dangers our community faces, the answer becomes clear."*

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#### #2: Fourth Paragraph (SWAT/Tactical Units)

##### Strengths:

- You connect your ideas well by linking back to the opening scene, which helps readers remember why tactical units matter.
- Your explanation of what SWAT teams need (briefing rooms and equipment bays) shows specific knowledge about police operations.

**Underdeveloped Supporting Details** → Whilst you mention that "high-intensity crimes" require "tactical gear and specialized training," you don't explain what happens without these resources or how a new station specifically solves current problems. The phrase "cannot be effectively managed from a crumbling, outdated building" tells us there's a problem but doesn't show us what that problem looks like in real situations. Adding concrete examples of what goes wrong in old facilities would make your argument much stronger.

**Exemplar:** *"Without proper equipment storage, officers waste precious minutes searching for gear during emergencies. A modern station would organise all tactical equipment in dedicated bays, allowing teams to suit up and deploy within five minutes instead of fifteen."*

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### #3: Conclusion

#### Strengths:

- Your final sentence uses strong imagery ("shield over the stadium") that readers will remember.
- You successfully bring together your main points about technology, speed, and specialised units in one summary sentence.

**Weak Counterargument Engagement** → You mention that the sports complex has "undeniable" appeal and offers "community spirit," but you dismiss this idea immediately without truly considering why someone might disagree with you. The phrase "a town cannot thrive if its people do not feel secure" assumes everyone agrees that safety matters more than recreation, but you haven't proven this point. To make your argument more convincing, you need to acknowledge the real benefits of a sports complex—such as keeping young people active and bringing the community together—before explaining why safety concerns must come first.

**Exemplar:** *"A sports complex would certainly benefit our town by providing healthy activities for children and gathering spaces for families. However, these advantages become meaningless if residents feel too unsafe to leave their homes and enjoy these facilities."*

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■ Your piece demonstrates solid organisational skills, with each paragraph focusing on a different benefit of the police station. However, your content would become more persuasive if you developed your ideas more fully with specific examples and evidence. Instead of making broad statements like "seconds often determine the difference between life and death," you could strengthen your argument by describing a real or realistic scenario showing how response time affects outcomes. Additionally, your writing would benefit from addressing opposing views more fairly—when you quickly dismiss the sports complex, readers who support it might stop listening to your argument. Consider spending more time explaining why safety infrastructure deserves priority even though recreation facilities also provide valuable community benefits. Also, check that each paragraph connects smoothly to the next by using linking sentences that show how your ideas build upon each other.

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**Overall Score: 41/50**

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#### Section 2:

#1 → The sounds of chaos—rapid gunfire, wailing sirens, and the desperate cries of bystanders—represent a nightmare that no community should ever have to endure. When officers are pinned down and outmatched, the thin line between order and anarchy begins to fray, leaving the public vulnerable. While a sports complex offers entertainment and recreation, a modern police station offers the fundamental necessity of survival. By prioritizing [prioritising] the construction of a new police station, our town can ensure the public feels safer, enable officers to respond to emergencies with greater speed, and establish a dedicated tactical presence to handle high-stakes crimes.

Furthermore, a new police station serves as the bedrock for community trust and psychological well-being. When a police department operates out of an ageing, neglected facility, it sends a message to the residents that their safety is not a top priority for the local government. Investing in a modern, professional headquarters fosters a sense of pride and security among the citizenry, knowing that their protectors are well-funded and supported. This environment also improves officer morale and provides a transparent space for the public to engage with law enforcement, creating a stronger bond of cooperation that a sports complex simply cannot provide.

#2 → The most critical factor in any emergency is the speed of the response, as seconds often determine the difference between life and death. A new, centrally located police station equipped with modern dispatch technology allows for a drastic reduction in the time it takes for help to arrive. Older facilities often lack the integrated infrastructure needed for real-time coordination, leading to delays that can be catastrophic during an active crisis. By placing a state-of-the-art station near high-traffic areas, the town ensures that patrol cars can reach a scene immediately, increasing the likelihood of saving lives and apprehending suspects before they can escape.

#3 → Beyond simple patrol duties, a modern facility provides the space and resources necessary for ~~specialized~~ [specialised] protection units like SWAT. High-intensity crimes, such as the violent shootout described previously, require tactical gear and ~~specialized~~ [specialised] training that cannot be effectively managed from a crumbling, outdated building. A new station can house dedicated briefing rooms and equipment bays, allowing these elite units to deploy at a moment's notice. This increased readiness acts as both a shield for the citizens and a powerful deterrent to violent criminals who might otherwise view the town as an easy target for lawlessness.

In conclusion, whilst the appeal of a new sports complex and its promise of community spirit is undeniable, a town cannot thrive if its people do not feel secure. The foundation of a flourishing society is not found in its stadiums, but in the strength of its public safety infrastructure. By choosing to build a new police station, we are investing in the essential technology, response speed, and ~~specialized~~ [specialised] units required to protect our families from the unthinkable. We must ~~prioritize~~ [prioritise] the shield over the stadium to ensure that our streets remain a place of peace rather than a scene of tragedy.

## WEEK 9

### Section 1:

#### #1: Introduction (First Paragraph)

##### Strengths:

- Your opening creates a vivid picture with the scenario of parents relaxing on the school run, which helps readers connect emotionally to the topic.
- The transition from imaginative scenarios to the thesis statement flows smoothly and sets up your argument clearly.

**Shallow Treatment of Opposing Views** → Your introduction presents the mandate as inevitable without acknowledging any legitimate concerns readers might have. Phrases like "This isn't just a scene from a sci-fi movie; it is a reality we can achieve" assume everyone shares your enthusiasm, but you haven't addressed why someone might worry about job losses for professional drivers, the enormous cost of replacing all vehicles, or concerns about technology failing. When you write persuasively, you need to show you understand different perspectives, even if you ultimately disagree with them. This makes your argument stronger because readers feel you've thought carefully about the issue rather than overlooking important problems.

**Exemplar:** *Whilst some people worry about the cost of replacing millions of vehicles and the impact on professional drivers, the long-term benefits of autonomous vehicles far outweigh these temporary challenges.*

#### #2: Safety Paragraph (Second Paragraph)

##### Strengths:

- Your use of the statistic about 90% of accidents being caused by human error provides solid support for your safety argument.
- The comparison between human limitations and computer capabilities is effective and easy to understand.

**Oversimplified Reasoning** → Your paragraph suggests that removing human drivers would "virtually eliminate collisions," but you haven't explored any complications with this claim. The phrase "By removing the 'human element' from the driver's seat, we could virtually eliminate collisions" treats autonomous vehicles as perfect, yet you don't mention that these cars still experience technical glitches, struggle in heavy rain or snow, and have been involved in accidents during testing. Your argument would be more convincing if you acknowledged that whilst AVs would reduce accidents significantly, they won't solve every problem. Additionally, you mention that computers "do not get tired or bored," but you don't explain what happens when sensors malfunction or how the car handles completely unexpected situations that weren't programmed into its algorithms.

**Exemplar:** *Whilst autonomous vehicles would dramatically reduce the 90% of accidents caused by human error such as speeding and distraction, we must continue developing technology to handle challenging weather conditions and unexpected road situations.*

### #3: Environmental and Efficiency Paragraph (Third Paragraph)

#### Strengths:

- Your explanation of "phantom traffic jams" demonstrates good understanding of a specific problem that autonomous vehicles could solve.
- Linking environmental benefits with practical advantages (getting places faster) shows you're thinking about multiple impacts.

**Underdeveloped Connection Between Ideas** → Your paragraph jumps between traffic flow and environmental benefits without fully explaining how these connect. When you write, "Because these vehicles are designed to drive at the most efficient speeds and are primarily electric," you're linking two separate ideas (efficiency and electric power) as though they're the same thing, but autonomous vehicles could run on petrol, and electric vehicles don't need to be autonomous. You haven't explained why making cars autonomous would make them electric, or why both need to happen together. Additionally, your claim that they "significantly reduce energy waste and harmful emissions" needs more support—you should explain *how much* reduction we might expect or provide evidence that this reduction would be substantial enough to genuinely help fight climate change.

**Exemplar:** *When autonomous vehicles communicate with each other to maintain steady traffic flow, they reduce unnecessary acceleration and braking, which wastes fuel. If these vehicles were also electric, we could see emissions drop by up to 60%, making a real difference in our fight against climate change.*

■ Your piece presents a clear position on autonomous vehicles and organises your ideas into logical paragraphs, each focusing on a different benefit. However, your argument would be much more persuasive if you explored your points more deeply rather than moving quickly from one idea to the next. You tend to make broad claims—like "virtually eliminate collisions" or "significantly reduce energy waste"—without explaining the details or limitations. When you write persuasively, stronger arguments come from showing you've thought about complications and still believe your position is right. Additionally, your conclusion mentions that "some people might say they enjoy the feeling of being behind the wheel," but this is the first time you've acknowledged any opposition, and you dismiss it in half a sentence. Try bringing up counterarguments earlier in your body paragraphs and explaining why your position is still better. For instance, in your safety paragraph, you could acknowledge that autonomous vehicles aren't perfect but argue they're still safer than human drivers.

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**Overall Score: 43/50**

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#### Section 2:

**#1** Imagine a world where you never have to worry about a car accident again. Imagine your parents being able to relax and chat with you on the way to school instead of stressing over heavy traffic. This isn't just a scene from a sci-fi movie; it is a reality we can achieve by mandating autonomous vehicles (AVs) over ordinary, human-driven cars. To ensure safety, efficiency, and freedom for everyone, we must embrace the switch to self-driving technology.

**#2** The most compelling reason to mandate autonomous vehicles is safety. Statistics show that over 90% of road accidents are caused by human error, such as speeding, fatigue, or looking at a phone. Humans can be unpredictable and easily distracted, but computers do not get tired or bored. An autonomous car uses 360-degree sensors and complex algorithms to "see" every obstacle simultaneously. By removing the "human element" from the driver's seat, we could virtually eliminate collisions and save thousands of lives every year.

**#3** Beyond safety, a world of only autonomous cars would be much better for our environment and our schedules. Human drivers often cause "phantom traffic jams" by braking too hard or reacting slowly to green lights. Autonomous cars, however, can communicate with each other to maintain a steady, perfect flow of traffic. Because these vehicles are designed to drive at the most efficient speeds and are primarily electric, they significantly reduce energy waste and harmful emissions, helping us fight climate change ~~while~~ [whilst] we get to our destinations faster.

Furthermore, mandating AVs provides incredible independence to people who are currently excluded from driving. Think about the elderly, people with visual impairments, or those with physical disabilities who currently rely on expensive taxis or the help of others to get around. With a mandatory AV system, a person who is blind or a senior citizen with slow reflexes could simply hop into a car and safely go wherever they need. It creates a fair and inclusive community where everyone has the freedom to move.

In conclusion, ~~while~~ [whilst] some people might say they enjoy the feeling of being behind the wheel, the benefits of "giving up the steering wheel" are far too great to ignore. Mandating autonomous vehicles will make our roads safer, our air cleaner, and our lives much more convenient. For a brighter and more secure future, it is time to let technology take the lead and make human driving a thing of the past.