The Gentle Marker

Sample student report

# Enceladus or Exile!

Sample M · Year 5 · Persuasive

Example rubric score

## 41 / 48

These marks describe this piece of writing. Only the national test gives you a NAPLAN proficiency level. ACARA's guide to the levels

Writing task

Year 5 persuasive writing. The original task wording was not supplied.

## What worked well

In your safety paragraph, you move from plants swept away by water to a joey losing its home and then to a child escaping a fire. Each scene gives the reader someone or something specific to care about.

You begin by asking the reader to think about population growth. Later, your question about what we leave future generations gives the reader a different role: now they have a decision to make.

## Your next steps

Revisit the end of your safety paragraph. The child escaping the fire shows why people need protection, but it does not yet show why moving to Enceladus would protect them better than helping them stay safe on Earth. That is the choice your reader needs help making.

## Try this revision

Keep one scene and rewrite the ending of that paragraph around it. Use one example you can back up to compare the two choices for the life you pictured. Explain what that comparison tells you, even if it means making a smaller claim. Ask a partner to point to the detail that helped them weigh the two choices, not just picture the danger.

## Words you spelt well

further, fragile, equipment, precious, Picture, sacred, future, choice, acknowledge, support, knowledge, civilisation

# Your rubric

The examples below are taken from your writing.

| Criterion and evidence | Mark |
|---|---|
| **Audience**<br>How you help your reader follow and care about what you are saying.<br>*“Did you know that Earth gains 200,000 people every day?”* | 5/6 |
| **Text structure**<br>How you organise the beginning, middle and ending of your piece.<br>*“We must colonise Enceladus - Saturn's second largest moon, in order to keep the budget, save lives and do what's…”* | 4/4 |
| **Ideas**<br>How you develop your main ideas with details.<br>*“Enceladus can save us trillions because its atmosphere blocks harmful radiation so we don't have to set up any f…”* | 4/5 |
| **Persuasive devices**<br>How you use language and reasons to persuade your reader.<br>*“So, stop being blasé and blast off into brilliance!”* | 4/4 |
| **Vocabulary**<br>How precisely your word choices express what you mean.<br>*“sidestep a far larger cost down the line”* | 4/5 |
| **Cohesion**<br>How you link ideas so the reader can follow them.<br>*“keep the budget, save lives and do what's right.”* | 4/4 |
| **Paragraphing**<br>How you group sentences and choose where to start a new paragraph.<br>*“Colonising Enceladus is a cost effective deal for humanity. If we spend money on a new home now we can sidestep…”* | 3/3 |
| **Sentence structure**<br>How you build and vary your sentences.<br>*“If we spend money on a new home now we can sidestep a far larger cost down the line.”* | 4/6 |
| **Punctuation**<br>How your punctuation helps the reader hear and understand each sentence.<br>*“Picture this, sacred flora being washed away in the raging flood waters.”* | 3/5 |
| **Spelling**<br>How accurately you spell the words you use.<br>*“blasé and blast off into brilliance!”* | 6/6 |

# Your original writing

Enceladus or Exile!

Did you know that Earth gains 200,000 people every day? Our population has boomed from 2.5 billion in the 1950s to over 8 billion today. It is time to explore further, faster and fuller. We must colonise Enceladus - Saturn's second largest moon, in order to keep the budget, save lives and do what's right. So, stop being blasé and blast off into brilliance!

Colonising Enceladus is a cost effective deal for humanity. If we spend money on a new home now we can sidestep a far larger cost down the line. Enceladus can save us trillions because its atmosphere blocks harmful radiation so we don't have to set up any fragile and expensive equipment. Plus, it is even more protected to meteorites than Earth. Why spend countless amounts of money fixing Earth, when we have a new home waiting for us?

Migrating to Enceladus will protect precious life. Picture this, sacred flora being washed away in the raging flood waters. Picture this, a small defenceless joey fleeing her rapidly collapsing home. Picture this a petrified boy sprinting away from his ash covered house as smoke covered the sky behind him. Every time we allow this to happen lives are lost. By moving to Enceladus we will make our future safer for our descendants.

Planning a trip to Enceladus is the ethical choice we should make. 80% of scientists acknowledge that Earth can no longer support life and we must move. Is it fair to leave future generations with one fragile, torn apart planet when we have the knowledge and resources to make a new home. It is vital we fly to Enceladus, it is the choice an advance civilisation should make. By migrating to Enceladus now, we can save the human race from extinction. So will you do what's right?

Humanity must colonise Enceladus. Doing this will save money, keep lives safe and make the responsible choice for humanity. It is time to play your part! So don't miss your chance for a better life or the races of Earth will quickly deplete.