



LETTERS TO THE MP

Last Term, 7BW English finished off our unit on persuasive writing by brainstorming ways we could be more sustainable and how to persuade Australia as a country to follow some eco-friendly tips.

I wanted to put some of our new skills into practice, so we drafted and handwrote some letters to our Member of Parliament for Werriwa, Anne Stanley.

Recently, I was flattered to see not just a letter responding to us as a class, but individual letters to every single one of our students. In her response to me, Ms Stanley writes *'I was encouraged by the well-thought-out arguments and would like to acknowledge the effort by each student. I have [also] written to the Minister for the Environment, the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, about the students' letters.'*

One of the questions I always get asked is, 'how are we going to use this?' and receiving replies from the MP will hopefully show students that what we write and how we use our voice matters. The skills we learn in English help us create change and express ourselves, even if it can be tricky at times!

Dear Luke,

Thank you for writing to me about your thoughts on changing and protecting the environment.

You made a good choice in your letter by focusing on the local things we can change to make our environment better. There is a saying "think global, act local", which I think you embodied excellently.

Dear Petar,

Thank you for your letter and for your extensive, well-reasoned argument.

You not only provided detailed points, but connected each point together to construct a highly cohesive case. You clearly have a talent for persuasive writing and I hope you continue to grow as a writer.

Thank you again for raising this issue with me. Reusable bags are a simple, practical and effective means of improving sustainability.

Dear Lorenzo,

Thank you very much for your thoughtful letter.

I appreciate how you laid out your case by starting with a small, attainable example like recycling one glass bottle. You then used that foundation for building your argument for wider recycling programs.

Dear Patrick,

Thank you for writing to me and expressing what matters to you.

You displayed a very convincing technique in your writing by using the word "we" throughout your argument. It helped reinforce that this is our collective world and therefore our collective responsibility.

I am impressed by your mature perspective and your knowledgeable approach.

Dear James,

Thank you for writing to me about the importance of protecting our native species.

Your awareness of the various activities that contribute to the degradation of animal habitats is impressive and commendable. I share your concern for our animals, many of which cannot be found anywhere else in the world.

You presented a well-structured argument that conveys our shared responsibility in preserving our ecosystems.

Dear Otis,

Thank you for your letter and your argument for sustainability.

I admire your focus on the new and emerging technologies that are being developed to meet the challenges of today. It is my hope that the alternative energy market you write about will become a reality.

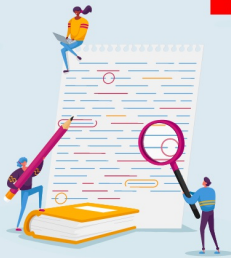
It is indeed in our best interest to embrace the technology of the future.

Dear Anyisia,

Thank you for your letter and for sharing your thoughts with me.

You structured your argument well by utilising convincing statistics and evidence. I also admire your imagination about the use of robotic waste removal.

Whatever you choose to do, I hope you employ this same level of detail and creativity.



Mrs Patricia Guthrie
Senior School Teacher