

Stimulus:

It has been 3 months since Mobius was closed down. Life after Mobius is entirely different than it was before Mobius. You are one of the characters in the book. You want to share with a friend your experiences and feelings about how the world around you has changed and how you personally have changed. Write a 250 to 450 word letter or email.

The context of this task:

This is based on *Internment* by Samira Ahmed, a novel whose story happens in an imagined future US where Islamophobia is at its peak. We read this novel in our English B class for our oral task, and it's also linked to other topics we learned such as stereotypes and multiculturalism.

In the story, Mobius is the internment camp which the protagonist, Layla, has been forced into, along with her family and many other Muslim Americans. Ayesha is a friend that Layla has met in the camp. In the end, after all the suffering of the internees and uprisings against the camp, Mobius has been shut down. All internees have returned to their homes.

From: Layla
To: Ayesha
Date: 21 April 2020
Subject: My Life is Not Really Back to Normal, How's Yours

Hi Ayesha,

How's life? Finally back to normal?

Since Mobius was closed down, I've seen some cheerful changes, but also many frustrating things happening around me. That might have something to do with our experience in the camp, so I thought you would understand me.

To be honest, I don't think all people have changed their minds about Muslims. Not saying I'm not happy with the new president ending the Muslim Ban and everything, but changing the policies doesn't mean Islamophobes are suddenly going to throw away their prejudices, right? Do you remember Mrs. Brown? I told you about her making me a wonderful birthday cake but also attending book burnings. Now, she puts on a smile every time I see her, a smile that can't look more plastic. At school, people also say things like "be nice to Layla, because Muslims like her also have human rights" mockingly, then burst into laughter. Visible violence has ended, but deep in those people's hearts, the roots ~~of for~~ of violence are still there.

With those things happening constantly, I guess my old life is gone forever. Am I too sensitive, or do you feel the same way? Although all people act ~~politically right~~ politically correct, they think differently. And I can feel that distance between people. It seems like we are welcomed back, but for some people, that acceptance is fake. If I had never been in a camp, I wouldn't have realized how fragile the good relationships between people ~~is~~ are. I'm afraid, someday, Muslims might be back to similar camps again. Or some other groups of people might be attacked. Now I even sense the danger of another wave of hatred...

I'll stop here. Let's talk positive. We stopped fascism this time, with our own hands. Next time, well, if there's a next time, we can definitely beat it, too. Through this nightmare, I feel I've grown so much. I almost froze when the Exclusion Guards came to my house, but now I know everyone is strong enough to make a difference and I'm prepared to fight for human rights again. Maybe that's why I'm reacting more strongly to other people's biases. Because I have the power to stand up to them now.

Well, that's how I feel about myself and the world around me. Mobius has really changed us. Don't you think so? Can't wait to hear from you.

Lots of love,
Layla

Overall Feedback: This would be a 7.

Language: You've done a great job using colloquial language. It sounds natural, like a dialogue, which is what we want out of a personal email. The use of short, choppy sentences interspersed helps to achieve that effect.

Message: Effectively organized into paragraphs. You covered both what's different about life and how she's feeling now. I think it's perceptive of you to assume that life doesn't just go back to normal. Prejudices that have been hammered into people's heads don't just disappear overnight.

Conceptual understanding: You nailed this text type. It sounds really realistic. The conventions (salutations, subject line, etc.) are all in there.