

Example of summative feedback

Thank you for submitting your final paper, student's name.

Your work meets all the outcomes for this module. For example, your introduction meets A5 by effectively contextualising your study; your literature review meets K&U1, A1 and A3; your selection of an appropriate research approach and data collection instrument (s) meets K&U2, A2 and A4; your explanation of how you obtained informed consent from your participants and the setting for your study meets K&U3; your analysis and interpretation of the data you collected and then locating it within what is already known about the topic meets A6.

Quality of your work

Your introduction and literature review very effectively contextualise your study. One of the strengths is the way you have told me why you are interested in learner autonomy and self-directed study and then related this to your current role as a learning mentor and achievement coach. Another strength is the rigorous critical evaluation of the literature that connects your work to the existing research and material on learner autonomy and how you have then stated how this has informed your research approach.

You demonstrate a mostly extensive and systematic understanding of the methodological issues surrounding your study. One of the strengths of your work is your well-worded research question, another is how you justify your selection of a research approach in relation to your research topic and research question. Also, you have clearly explained your choice of appropriate data collection instruments to answer your research question(s) and how these were refined as a result of the pilot study. Finally, you critically and reflexively discuss some aspects of how you collected your data, though you might have discussed the actual interview itself and whether you tape recorded it or made your own notes.

You demonstrate a well-developed and systematic understanding of how to analyse and present data. A particular strength is how you critically discuss the main findings arising from your study and present them under appropriate headings. Also, I liked the way you used the participants' "voices" to tell the story, though you might have quoted them more frequently. Additionally, you have demonstrated an ability to locate your findings within existing literature and research. Finally, you demonstrate well developed analytical skills to draw appropriate and relevant conclusions from your findings and then suggest suitable recommendations. Your conclusions and recommendations will be particularly valuable to your college, I expect.

Overall, this is a well written piece of work. One of the strengths of your work is the standard of grammar, punctuation, syntax and expression, and this contributes significantly to its readability. Another strength is the way your work starts with a well- chosen title and is introduced by a very good abstract that accurately summarises your study. A further strength is your excellent use of argumentation, much of which is backed up by well-chosen and current literature. Finally, the standard of referencing in your work is very good.

Areas for development that would have increased your mark include:

1. An even more detailed account of your study. For instance, you could have told me how your current role is linked with the students in the study. Also, you might have told me which year of their course the students are in.
2. Being clearer about your methodology. An action research approach implies that it is a case study;
3. Being more careful about the use of percentages when dealing with such a small sample of respondents. It was fine to use them when counting the hours, though inappropriate when discussing the 5 students' responses to questions;
4. An even higher standard of grammar, punctuation, syntax and expression;

To summarise, this is an excellent and fascinating piece of research on students' use of self-study time and learner autonomy. I am recommending a mark of X. Well done, student's name.

Finally, please note that this is a recommended mark and is provisional in the first instance and subject to amendment by moderation and confirmation by the Course Assessment Board.

David Powell

11.3.14

See page 1 of script for Second Marker comments.

Jo Goodison 3.4.14