Essay Feedback Form Using Core Criteria – Sample Feedback for Essay

Addressing the question
☐ The material you use is not relevant to this topic
☐ The material you use is relevant to this general topic, but you don’t make clear how it is relevant to this specific question/title
☑ Good, you have made it very clear how the material you use is related to the specific issues that are the focus of the essay

Using evidence
☐ You don’t provide enough research findings, data, quotations or other sourced material as evidence for your claims/assertions/ideas
☐ You provide some potential evidence, but the link with your claims/assertions/ideas could be clearer/developed more
☑ Good, you use evidence clearly and convincingly to support your claims/assertions/ideas

I like the way your descriptions of the research findings are followed by sentences beginning ‘In this way…’ or ‘This suggests…’ that draw out the implications of the research.

Developing argument
☐ Your essay does not contain a point of view or position in relation to the title or question
☐ Your essay contains some expression of a position, which could have been more explicitly developed and justified
☑ Good, you have established a clear position in relation to the question, and developed that position throughout the essay

Your conclusion sums up your ‘position’ on this issue. That is fine but it’s a very conventional argument to make. The issue you raise in your introductory paragraph – about whether we are really independent individuals – would have made for a more interesting theme or argument for your essay if you had developed it.

Critical evaluation
☐ Your essay is too descriptive – there is not enough assessment of the value or significance of what you describe
☐ Your evaluative points could be more extensive/explicit/systematic/reasoned/justified
☑ Good, you have made some systematic, reasoned and justified assessments of value

Good, but most of your evaluative points are about the positive value of this research. Can you make any critical points about the limitations of this research? For example have things moved on since the time of Ashe?

Structuring
☐ Your arrangement of the material into paragraphs could provide a more logical sequence of ideas
☐ Some of your paragraphs do not focus on one main idea each, or are too short
☑ Good, your introduction could do more to let the reader know how the essay will deal with the issues
☐ Your conclusion could do more to give the essay an ending which brings together your various points
☑ Good, you have structured the material in a way that allows for a logical sequence of ideas

Use of language
☐ Your essay has too many spelling, grammar, or punctuation errors
☐ In some passages your writing makes the meaning unclear or difficult to follow
☑ Your meaning is clear, but your language is too colloquial
☑ Make sure you stick to the correct citation conventions
☐ Good, your writing style is fluent, clear and the tone is appropriate

Especially when you are describing the studies References should give details of sources you cite in the text. Your list is a bibliography.

Overall comment:

Good. You have got lots of interesting points to make about this research, especially your points towards the end about how groups regulate themselves. Can you take the next step, which is to turn a collection of good points into a ‘position’ or opinion about the whole area? If you can think of one, this would provide a ‘theme’ or argument that could run through the essay from introduction to conclusion, building up as you show how it is supported in various ways by the research.

A+