FEEDBACK TUTORIAL LETTER

2ND SEMESTER 2019

Assignment 1

Comparative Local Government
CLG112S
Feedback Tutorial Letter

Comparative Local Government Management (CLG211s)

Date: 03 September 2019

Dear Students,

I'm astonished and impressed with your ability to write concisely. But some of you need to improve on aspects such as sentence construction and the organisation structure of your assignment. Not only did you fulfill the assignment, some of you also wrote a longish intro and answered questions that went beyond the prompt. Doing so within the word limit and doing it well deserves recognition. One result is that outside of the opening paragraph the entire essay is focused exclusively on the arguments –there's no excess fat in this essay. Fundamentally, your focus were supposed to put much emphasis on the Inter-governmental Relations Act 2005 of South Africa and make possible recommendations or a normative approach to the reader and most of you fail to do it. As noted throughout, however, some of your specific arguments need to be developed.

Your paper is almost exclusively a report of various points of consensus among the authors you cite. This does not meet the specifications of the assignment. What's needed is to utilize this ability –the ability to extract important and overlapping ideas from the literature in the service of your own independent argument. A clear and specific thesis sentence stated up top will help you to organize and tie together the various parts of your paper. The conclusion section should also help to do the same thing. Your conclusion here is a bookend, bringing up the same (or at least a similar) point as the one you began with concerning the different kinds of attraction that exist. More than just a bookend, however, you want your conclusion to be in the service of your argument. It should both summarize and highlight the most important points you've tried to establish in the body of your paper and state how these points support your thesis.
As discussed in the assignment, a critical part of your argument is exploring a counterargument. Either in making specific claims to support your thesis or after articulating your argument, consider countervailing evidence or interpretive frameworks or objections to your reasons and conclusions. Doing so will strengthen your case. This is not just true when attempting to make your own argument, but is also an important element of explicating the academic dialogue for your reader. If all of the authors you cite were locked in a room would they all agree on the question you’re exploring? Help your reader to understand the tensions, contradictions and questions that are left in the wake of their studies. Then argue for why — given these tensions, contradictions and questions your reader ought to side with your own claims.

The host of punctuation and grammar errors, along with the frequently awkward phrasing of the paper makes it read like a first draft. This is very distracting and inhibits your ability to keep the attention of the reader or convince the reader of your point.

Again, the paper shows a good grasp of some of the basic points made in the literature, weaving together a number of overlapping ideas. I’m confident in your ability to improve. But some of you lacks this coherence.

Regards,

[Signature]

Muundjul J
Marker-tutor
Ext. 2133