



Open
College
of the Arts

Formative feedback

Student name	Gesa Helms	Student number	492645
Course/Unit	Creative Arts Level 3 Research	Assignment number	5
Type of tutorial	(eg video/audio/written)	annotated/written	

Normally to be written by the student, and endorsed by the tutor with **additions/amendments in red**.

Overall Comments

Assignment 5

Thanks for submitting A5 Gesa, and well done on the adjustments you have made since our last tutorial. I have added comments into your dissertation to help you with final redrafting. Any problems accessing the comments do let me know

As we previously discussed you cover a lot of ground and the research-as-practice you have conducted has produced a rich and productive enquiry with engaging outcomes.

In terms of the written document I think the main things to consider at this point are:

How you want to guide/care for the reader through the dissertation - there are some sections that carefully guide the reader though what you are doing and what is occurring, for example: 2.3 distance and closeness. This is excellent work

Thank you, Rachel for taking the time for this written feedback and the joint video tutorial with Doug for BoW5, I really appreciate this! As I said in the tutorial, I had taken some notes upon reading the comments and the feedback and wanted to see if a

responsive, interactive modality could work for this written feedback along the ones that I started writing for the video ones. Here it comes in right-aligned Century Gothic 10.5.

There are also still some moments where you drop works or large theories into the text with very little framing which can cause a feeling of being lost in the text (this might be intentional? but equally you can consider how much you want to then frame that expectation for the reader?)

Some more footnoting or a more traditional glossary would help with this, as we discussed in the last tutorial

However, I also recognise this is an ongoing consideration for you in terms of the writing as practice and the idea of contact, distance and how sometimes you are holding your reader at arms length. Again the more you can make decisions about transparency and opacity in the style of the writing and make this deliberate with signposting the better.

You outline the idea of voices clearly in your introduction and the typography of the text in some sections which is really helpful, and so you might want to do the same with the idea of clarity or what is revealed and what obscured?

Perhaps this connects to our discussion last time about managing excess, and the difficulties of cramming all the rich research you have done in the word count?- You do acknowledge this in the dissertation, but you might want to acknowledge the moments when this will impact the reader?

I seem to have been wholly resistant to that traditional glossary. Maybe it's the fixing that happens through it, the solidity, that puts me off. Let me try for some key terms and add to the dissertation appendix. I mean: it's not that difficult to excerpt from the blog post two sentences as to nomadism, right.

As I said in my first email response to this feedback: I really like how you returned my investigation of care and maintenance to my readership. I think it's my social scientist who is a little impatient with slow or ignorant readers and I need to have a conversation with her as to how serious she is in carrying this forward to her artistic writing practice.

I think our conversation in the BoW5 tutorial that it is not a matter of handholding but perhaps merely naming the opacity, the distance (in a footnote, or in a glossary, now this is turning interesting for me), could be sufficient. And: importantly: that that investigation of clarity of approach will only benefit me for how to proceed beyond this.

On the idea of the management of excess - we talked last time about your research folder and how you might evidence the excess that you speak of in terms of the research. I see you have links included which are not yet active but show your intention to add which is great- how much extra are you planning to add into the research folder on the blog and how will this be formatted/navigated?

Some of these are live (but I hadn't added them to the dissertation yet. The nomadism one, e.g., is here:

<https://close-open.net/2021/04/28/nomadic-thought-and-transversalism-research-folder/>

There are 3-4 shows/ artworks that I saw, investigated which are key for my development, possibly more of BoW but possibly for Research, with my notes in Glasgow, so I will add those, and then the ones I have included in the dissertation.

I also wanted to go through the earlier parts of the blog to re-classify what has been labelled 'sketchbook' or 'critical reflections' and see how these sit within the 'research folder' – this will concern more a restructuring of the overall blog, which e.g. doesn't systematically use tags right now, but which will also help contextualise this new 'research folder'.

Oh, but I really wanted to mention the excess again and how we raised its relationship to abundance in the BoW 5 tutorial: how once I had sited the sewing machine with the Walnut tree prints on the meadow, the abundance resurfaced and helped order and contain what could easily overwhelm BoW, Research or the artist.

You do have quite a few really long sentences where the sense isn't quite as clear as it might be. I suggest breaking these into shorter sentences for clarity - I have highlighted some - reading aloud may help with redrafting

Ha – this had me, I re-read them and consider them to be fine, I like that weavy structure on a sentence level, let me see if I can do a blog post as to why that leads the reader and where to?

Bibliography - just check the formatting of this at your end, as it might be a problem on my mac? but the entries have lost any italics?

Also add fullstops after each name initials, and quotations for article titles, then italics for journal title

And another ha: I never designated italics; from all the various bibliography standards that I used for different articles I seem to have developed my favourite minimalist one (no excessive full stops, italics look antiquated; I think it may quite closely model the journal *Area* or *Environment and Planning D* styles, or be a hybrid between them).

Any other notes

Thank you so much for all your thinking, writing and discussing along this extended project! It tremendously benefitted from it and so did I. I am looking forward to SYP.

Tutor name	Rachel Smith
Date	28.5.21
Next assignment due	