Feedback on introduction styles: Human Geography

Introduction 1

This is a very short introduction, and though it follows the general idea of referring to the question and then telling the reader the structure of the argument, it does not achieve quite the desired effect. The first sentence is a bit too straightforward, perhaps, and needs some commas to separate out the subclauses. The second sentence uses the semi-colon wrongly, and the reference to ‘construct’ or ‘constructs’ is opaque – here, the word ‘construction’ is surely better. Overall, this is a simple approach, but not perhaps particularly successful.

Introduction 2

This is largely very effective, with a strong opening statement of facts, followed by the introduction of arguments that will be continued throughout the essay: the man-made nature of the 2005 disaster, and how this both conforms to and challenges the idea that cities are separate from the natural world. In this example, the student does not feel the need to refer explicitly to the question, nor to follow the formula of ‘this essay will...’, etc; and it is in some ways effective because of this confidence.

Introduction 3

This is less successful: it uses a relatively weak opening strategy, going straight in to a definition of ‘disaster’, and compounds this by asking two rhetorical questions, and jumping from New Orleans’ colonial foundation to recent neoliberal policies. For the reader this is somewhat disorientating, and the introduction does not indicate very well where the essay will be going and what it will be arguing.