

Renee Moore -- Culturally Engaged Instruction: Putting theory into practice
<http://www.goingpublicwithteaching.org/rmoore/>

ROUGH TRANSCRIPT -- Student Conference: Carl

RM explains how she keeps old drafts herself in case there's material there that she might use later.

RM and Carl discuss his essay ideas. He's going to write about his mama. RM asks about her.

Carl:...she helps me with my homework.

RM: as we're talking, jot those things down, just make a list. Learn to get into the habit, as you're thinking, write down what you're thinking about....what else does she do?

[Around 2 minutes in]

Carl: she help me study my work.

RM: you don't have to write that whole sentence again, since you already have that..you can just say, she help me study my work, helps me study my work...

Carl: right here? Moore: m-hm. Carl: ...help...

RM: helps me study my work. Just write what you just said. As you 're saying it, I want you to jot it down. You can make a sentence out of it later.

BELL RINGS

RM: anything else she help you with?

Carl: reading.

RM: oh, she let you read to her or she reads to you?

Carl: I read to her

RM: I read to her (points to his paper to write it down). When you read to her, does she say anything about your reading or just listen and let you practice?

Carl: she just listen to me and practice reading and then...if I don't know the word she tells me.

RM: so she helps you with words

[about 3:50 minutes in]

RM: so, think about this. These are all things about mama. If we put all of that together...in one sentence, might help you come up with your thesis sentence...all of that relates to what...don't all of these have something in common....homework, studying, reading, what does that sound like?

Carl: work

RM: your work. Your work is coming to school. It sounds like she's really interested in what you do at school.

Carl: yeah.

RM: so, let's think of a way we can say that in one sentence...cuz otherwise we're gonna have to have 4 four sentences ... in order to say all of this.. which you can do that later on in your paper. In your thesis statement you've gotta say it all in one. One way you could say it, that covers all that, she's influenced you in your..what?

Carl: school work.

RM: she's influenced your school work, she wants you to do well in school. Let's put that together, let's make up a sentence ... "a person who has influenced me is my mama because.... " Don't worry about it, just draw a line through it, don't worry about erasing now. How does that sound to you? Read it out loud.

Carl: the person who has influenced me is my mom because she help me with my school work.

RM: you like that? does that work?

Carl: yeah.

RM: we may spruce it up a little but that's pretty good. Now, the next step...thesis statement...now we gotta describe mama. So, I've never met your mother, so you've gotta help me see her...your words can actually help me see her. By the way, do you type on the computer, do you know how to type?

Carl: yeah.

RM: do you type pretty good?

Carl: yes.

RM: would you rather type than write everything? Do you think that would be easier or harder?

Carl: I'd rather write things out.....

....

RM: you gotta describe mama to me... you might want to put a circle around that to remember that that's your thesis statement... now, you gotta describe mama, is she tall, is she short...

Carl: she's short

D4T2, clip 9 (Carl conf 3 continued)

RM: is she, how do I want to say this...is she real real young, is she middle-aged? Do you know how old she is?...put 34. So she's 34. How many children does she have?

Carl: two.

RM: so you and, what, a brother or a sister?

Carl: a brother.

RM: so two boys. Has she lived her all her life? She grew up here....

Carl: she grew up here.

RM: she grew up in Shelby. How would I recognize her, if I saw her in a crowd, how would I know it was her? Does she wear her hair a certain way? Does she smile a lot, does she wear glasses? How will I know it's her?.... what color is her hair?

Carl: black.

RM: she doesn't put any colors or anything in it? (shakes his head). Does she wear it long or short?

Carl: long.

RM: long black hair. Does she like to wear pants or dresses?

Carl: pants.

RM: does she work?

Carl: hm-m.

RM: so she stays at home and takes care of ...

Carl: (nods)

RM: so she stays home, she's a full time mother. Does she...like to cook?

Carl: yeah

RM: ok, she's a good cook

Carl: m-hm.

RM:...might even wanna tell some of the things she makes. What's the one you like her to make most?

Carl: corned beef...

RM: oh my goodness...so you might even want to say that...my favorite thing that she makes...do you see what I'm making you do?

RM: I know you don't talk much, you probably don't talk to too many people...I'm trying to find somebody who can help, work with you on your paper...do you see what we're doing here....making a list of things...what do you think I want you to do with that...what do you need to do if you're gonna write a paragraph?....take this list and turn them into sentences...write your paragraph. Can you do that?

Carl: yeah.

.....

RM: what kind of things does she like to do? Besides cooking, what does she do?...go to church?

Carl: yeah

RM: which church does she go to?

Carl: Mount Lake

RM: put that down to, you know how to spell that?

Carl: (shakes his head)

RM: ask mama how to spell that when you get home...she'll like talkin' about that. Does she sing? Is she an usher?

Carl: (shakes his head) mmm

RM: just goes to church

Carl: yeah

RM: ...you can put that down about going to church, make yourself a note so you don't forget

....

RM: ok, you're gonna take this and you're gonna turn it into a paragraph...that's part 2, this part...you've got a lot of fact there, you'll be able to tell me a lot, a lot about her. Then comes the next part....after you do that, you've gotta think of a story...about your mother that shows me about her helping you with your school work....tell me what you did, what she said, how it turned out...can you think of a time when she's helped you...might be a time back when you were little...might be recently...one particular time when she helped you wiht something specifically...

Carl: my project

RM: she helped you work on your assignment

Carl: (nods)

RM: I want you to do the same thing with that that you did with these...as much as you can remember about that I want you to write down...what kind of project was it, what day was it, what do you do, what did she do, what did you say, what did she say...as many things as you can remember. Jot 'em down and your gonna turn that into paragraph...that'll be the body paragraph of your essay...