

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

ROUGH TRANSCRIPT -- Student Conference: Darius

Darius: I forgot it so I'm writing it out

RM:...what you should do then is save yourself some energy-- I'm glad you're writing-- but take what you're writing today, go home, get what you already have, and put it together... if what you have here is better than what you have at home, then use this...give me the best version...what had you decided to write about?

Darius: my father

RM: do you remember what you said about him? Do you know what your thesis was?

Darius: that's the thesis...

RM: read that to me

Darius: the person who has influenced me is my father

RM: is that a period?

Darius: a comma....[continues his sentence] mainly because he has a lot of confidence and is a hardworking man and he pushes me to do things I thought I couldn't do.

RM: ok, let's work on this.

[another student asks a question about dialogue]

RM: come on, let's work on this thesis, come around, I'm not gonna bite ya.....

.....

...are you saying he has confidence in a hard working man, or that he has confidence and he is a hard working man... you see what said, you see what you actually wrote.

Darius: he believes in hard work.

RM: ok, so he has confidence, he believes in hard work, and he pushes me to do things I thought I couldn't do. Did I get that right?

Darius: yes

RM: don't let me say what you didn't mean to say...I'm just trying to help you say what you said more clearly. To make sure I understand it. ...I just want to to rewrite this first part..."he has lots

of confidence" - you know, another way to say that is to say "he is confident." Cuz your describing him, right?

D: yes

RM: he is confident. He's...hardworking...right? Which one sounds better to you....well I want you to write it out, right down here. Let's write the first one first. The first thing you tell me about him-- he has confidence. Write that out first...don't- I'm sorry. I want you to...."he has confidence." Stop right there. In what? What does he have confidence in? If you say he has confidence in something, it means he believes in something. Do you understand what I'm asking you?

D: yes

RM: confidence means believe... if you say he has confidence in a hard working man... you're saying that he believes in somebody else. Is that what you meant to say?

D: somebody like me.

RM: he believes in you...so what you're saying is that he has confidence in someone like me , and works hard...he has confidence in a man that works hard. He likes men who work hard. Is that what you are telling me?

D: yes.

RM: you sure? or you're not sure? You didn't sound too sure with that yes. Cuz see, that's the problem. I'm confused about what exactly you're telling me, so I want you to make it very clear...are you telling me that he has a lot of confidence in himself? Or that he has a lot of confidence in you?

D: ...a lot of confidence in me.

RM: ok, so why don't you just say he has confidence in me? And what it is about the hard working that you want to tell me?

D: that he teach me to be hardworking.

RM: ok, let's try this then. Let's try 3 separate sentences then. We're gonna write it as 3 separate sentences, then we're gonna put it together. Do you wanna do that?

D: yes.

RM: ok, let's try that.... so, he has confidence in me...draw a line through that other one. Ok, he teach...he's teaching you, he is teaching me to work hard?

D: he is teaching me to be a hard worker.

