

Students need private one on one conferences with the teacher, using the same protocol, as much or more than mini lessons and fish bowl style conference demonstrations.

It would seem at first that one on one conferences would be less efficient than having mini lesson or fishbowl conferences. However, in this case it is helpful to talk directly to the students to help them locate interesting things in their writing and in the mentor text and help them be able to feel comfortable articulating things when they are talking to other students. The mini lessons and fish bowl conferences are most effective when they involve quite a bit of debrief which could take as much or even more time than having one on one conferences with individual students. This finding is purely based on observation of students in one on one conversations and listening to them after mini lessons. At some point, I would like to spend more time examining this theory.