

Finding 4: The recording sheet does not capture the back and forth negotiations and thinking happening between the writer and the reader

The video data I gathered of students using the conferencing protocol provided so much more insight into the richness of the thinking and development of ideas than the recorded conference sheet. Students were engaged in rigorous discussions of texts using academic language. They were supporting each other in making decisions about their writing and holding each other accountable to participating in the discussions. Students were questioning, analyzing, and suggesting ways to improve one another's writing. They were also supporting each other in remembering what each writing technique was and how it could be used to enhance a piece of writing. I saw extreme growth in students confidence to discuss a text across the span of one year.