

Preparing for our Case Study

- Imagine a 7th grade language arts classroom engaged in reading and discussing the text *The Outsiders*.

The Prompt

- “After reading the novel *The Outsiders* and a review of the book, and watching the movie version of the *The Outsiders*, write an essay in which you compare and contrast how the book and movie depict the issue of class. Refer to the book review for support as appropriate.”

General Intro to the Case Study

- A teacher is giving feedback to individual students who just completed the essays associated with the prompt.
- The teacher is learning to give Standards Based feedback on writing in one-on-one conferences.

Student Writing Excerpts

- Student A - Opinion-based, does not answer prompt, did not provide text evidence

“I thought the movie was easier to understand because you could see it, and the book was interesting too, but there were parts where they just described and nothing happened.”

- Student B - General descriptions of parts the text

“In both the movie and the book there are people who are rich and poor and that’s important. In the movie the rich people, the Soc’s, are shown as bad. In the book the Soc’s are shown as bad, too.”

Excerpt from Conference A

Teacher: I read your essay. You are making some connections but they are not developed yet. So let me help you out by showing you some examples. Let me show you a few places in the text where the issue of class shows up...let's go to page 10 and I will tell you some things I would say about it...And here's another example...that's what I need you to do. Do you get it?"

Student: Nods.

Excerpt from Conference B

Teacher: You are saying in the movie and the book that rich people are shown as bad? Why do you think that?

Student: I think rich people are selfish and uncaring and they act that way in the book and movie.

Teacher: Is that true of all rich people? All the time?

Student: Well, I don't know. But, I see that all the time. It's all over the book and movie. It's pretty much what it's all about.