

Scenario 2: An open and honest conversation

Mentor: So, tell me about what's on your mind these days.

Mentee: I just feel so tired all the time. I didn't have a chance to finish grading my students' essays, so they don't have feedback and I'm behind in my gradebook.

Mentor: Grading can take so long. I know you care about giving your students meaningful feedback.

Mentee: Yes, and I have so many different levels in my class; it takes so long to give each student meaningful feedback at their level. Plus, my son is sick so I was up late with him.

Mentor: I'm sorry to hear that about Ahmad I hope he is feeling better soon. So how much longer do you think it will take to grade the papers?

Mentee: Hours. I don't have the time.

Mentor: Perhaps we can spend some of our time today grading together? Maybe we will even come upon a way to make the grading go faster. For example, sometimes you can focus on one or two aspects of the writing and only give feedback on that instead of trying to give feedback on everything. Or sometimes you can group similar-level essays together and that can help to create a rhythm and increase your pace. Want to try it?

Mentee: Okay. Thank you. We are studying sentence structure, so maybe we can just focus on that. Can we do one together and then we can divide up a few of the essays?

Mentor: That sounds good. And then after we grade a few separately, can we talk about what we are noticing? This will help me with my own students, I think. I just got three new students with beginning levels of English, so I understand this challenge for sure.

Mentee: It's so hard, isn't it? Okay. Let's go. Here, this is a student who is having a particularly hard time with sentences. Let's do this one together first because I'm not sure exactly what to write.

