

Strategy Talk-Through

Now that the trainee has had an opportunity to see tutors in action and reflect on the tutoring role, they must begin practicing some aspects of this role – identifying problems, implementing strategies, considering next steps, etc.

To that end, this exercise requires that trainee(s) pair with a training assistant. They will need a sample essay. **The goal of this exercise is for the trainee to practice with a training assistant some of the concepts, language, and strategies trainees saw this week and for the training assistant to give insight as to how these strategies should be executed.**

1. Trainees take 5-10 minutes to scan essay.
2. Have trainees individually make list of the essay's major problems
3. Training assistant should then explain what they see as major problems in essay, prioritize the list, and explain why they prioritized it the way they did
4. Training assistants share with trainees how they use this prioritized list to create a plan
 - a. How do you know what you should address? Which strategies are typically associated with these issues?
5. Start practicing some of the strategies that may actually be used in this session with trainees acting as clients
 - a. Once training assistant explains which strategy comes next, they will use one trainee to actually practice the strategy, showing trainees how the strategies look from beginning to end
 - b. Trade off trainees as clients – if working with more than one trainee, trade off roleplaying roles, to allow everyone a chance to participate and observe
 - c. Training assistants should demonstrate a variety of strategies: argumentation, evidence, and structure are particularly important, though they can demonstrate editing for one sentence
6. While training assistant explains strategies, they should also explain the benefits of the strategy and how it moves the session forward
7. Once training assistant completes a strategy, they should ask trainees what they think next step might be
 - a. Not looking for accuracy; rather, trying to get trainees to think about strategies as means to an end, not the actual end product
8. At end of meeting, ask trainees to recount major session moments, tutor moves/strategies, and outcomes
9. Have trainees write short reflection comparing their original list of problems to the training assistant's list and submit to Training Supervisor