



In this picture I am sitting down with a student to edit a draft of his paper. I always sit with students and explain exactly what I'm marking and why. I think it helps to do two things. First, I get down on their level instead of standing over their shoulder. Second, I can discuss things with them, so they can remember more easily what my comments are and what sorts of changes I might be looking for in the next draft. Some students respond to

and remember the conversation we will have, while others will look more at the comments. It doesn't hurt to do both, though. I like this one-on-one time with students, and it is during these editing sessions that connections to them are often made.

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Here we see two students hard at work writing papers. Having computers in the classroom is essential in many situations, and I like to utilize the technology as much as possible. I give students ample time to work in this controlled environment, free from the distractions they might have on their computers at home, if they have them. Instant Messages, the internet and social networking sites, music, and all sorts of other things are constantly vying for their attention. A little time to sit down and really concentrate on their work pays dividends in terms of quality.





While school and classroom work is important, it's also crucial to connect school to the broader community. I had the opportunity to become involved with several service-learning activities while I was working at Metro. In this picture, you can see me relaxing (in costume, sort of) with a couple of students after a hard day's work. We acted out parts in a scripted walk through the Underground Railroad. I



was offered the chance to be a Sheriff, in cahoots with the farmer's wife here, to ferry away some fugitive slaves from the bounty hunter. While we certainly had fun, it was also nice to have a chance to get to know the students on a more personal level over an extended timeframe, as well as learn and teach others a few things about this important event in our history.



Metro is very involved in various community projects. Every year they plan a volunteer day and they coordinate a large project, involving the staff and many of the students. Here we are, hard at work building new trails at a nature center. I think that this sort of activity helps pull the staff together and make them feel more like a team, not to mention that putting in hard work lets the students know we're serious about our jobs. Acting as a positive role model is a major part of our jobs, even if it's rarely acknowledged.