

Nancy Sommers Videos

Teacher Comments

00:05

[SOMMERS onscreen] SOMMERS: If I give you comments, I want you to see these comments as a sign of respect.

00:10

[TITLE] Teacher Comments

00:12

["Nancy Sommers, Author" onscreen] SOMMERS: If I didn't respect your draft, then your draft wouldn't be worthy of comment, but because the draft is so good and because there are so many ideas, ideas that are undeveloped but ideas, these are ideas worthy of comment.

00:27

["Nathan Younie, Engineering Major" onscreen] YOUNIE: I get a paper back from a teacher, when it's got a bunch of red marks on it, that's never a fun thing. But, you know, definitely we're here to learn. That's obviously why we're in school. Trying to get a job for later. They're doing it for a reason. We need to work on it, and that's -- so you can't take it to heart. They're just trying to get the point across for us and usually we have the time to make it up too. If you get a bunch of marks on it, you can redo it, you can -- you're definitely going to learn from it. The idea is not to do you on the grade. Again, we're trying to learn here. That's the bottom line.

00:59

["Melissa Wilhelm, Nursing Major" onscreen] WILHELM: I usually try to look at them, read them, because in our program we do a lot of writing, so if you don't take in their criticisms you won't learn, and therefore you can't improve.

01:09

["Alex Rankin, English Major" onscreen] RANKIN: They pretty much say how it is, like if there's a good part of the paragraph, if there's a good part of the essay, they'll write next to it, "Hey, good job on your thesis." Or if my thesis isn't so good, they'll say, you know, "Work on your thesis next time. Try to make it flow."

01:29

[Sommers onscreen] SOMMERS: As a teacher, I want you, as a student, to engage with me. I don't want you to go home and be angry with me or say, "My teacher doesn't like me," or "She doesn't get me," or "She doesn't understand me," because maybe I didn't, and maybe I'm wrong. But I want you to engage with me, and that's what my comments are about.