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1. The challenge or theme illustrated by this episode:
Working efficiently in the final stages of a project.

2. Brief statement of context:
Last semester I was involved in a multi-part collaborative research project for a class in Technology and Policy. Our team had worked relatively well together, and we were finalizing the project and putting together the executive summary. In the project, each team member had been responsible for researching and writing a different chapter. One team member had been unwilling to make the extra trip into campus for our meetings, so he was teleconferencing. It is with him that this conflict occurred.

3. The conversation

<u>My Thoughts and Feelings</u>	<u>What We Said</u>
<p>First he gets to sit at home in his pajamas during these meetings and now he's trying to get out of doing work again. This is getting ridiculous.</p> <p>God, the French really <i>are</i> lazy. And I have to edit everything else anyway so I'm not sure why he's worried, especially when there are so many other problems with this paper.</p> <p>I probably shouldn't have shouted that. But it sure felt good.</p>	<p>Tristan: We need to write an executive summary, and I think we should break it up and have each person write a paragraph summary of the chapter that they wrote.</p> <p>Francois: I don't think that's a good idea. One person should write the whole thing.</p> <p>Tristan: Well, we're all busy and we all know best what our own chapters say. So unless you're volunteering to do the whole thing...</p> <p>Francois: I'm not doing that. I'm just saying that the executive summary should sound like it was written by one person, and not four.</p> <p>Tristan: Well, I'm editing everything else to give it a common voice. I'll do the same for the executive summary.</p> <p>Francois: But it still will not sound like it came from a single person if we all write little bits of it.</p> <p>Tristan: Christ, Francois. I'm sick and tired of you trying to get out of work. Unless you're volunteering to write the whole thing, just write the damn paragraph so we can be done.</p>

Francois: ::stunned silence over the speaker phone:: Fine.

4. Lingering concerns, puzzles, or questions:

I dislike the fact that I mentally characterized his unwillingness to work as a French attribute, but it was definitely a thought at the time. I wonder if I would have blown up at him had he been in the room and not teleconferencing. It seems to me that there were previous instances of this person avoiding work, but I can't recall any of them now.