*Dr. Tim Shanahan’s transcript of his interpretation of the following question: What should school leaders see when they observe and mentor teachers who are supporting student learning through disciplinary literacy?*

They certainly should do a lot of reading and writing in whatever the class is. So if it’s studying literature in an English class or the students are studying math in a math class or you know, whatever it is, you know, they should also be reading text from that field, not necessarily textbooks. There’s nothing wrong with textbooks either, but you know doing reading within a subject matter. So that would be one thing that I think is pretty central to it. If they’re not doing much reading or writing in those classes, there’s probably something wrong and you’re not going to really engage kids in those disciplines without that going on. So that would be a real basic. A second thing I think you’d want to watch for is the degree to which teachers are either trying to convey incites to the kids or are asking you know asking the kids to think about sort of how literacy differs in a particular subject. Again you’re sort of raising this self-consciousness about it. Part of the idea here is to let kids in on the cognitive secrets of a particular field. And so the field I think that’s been studied the most is probably, in this regard, is probably history. And one of the big things that we know is for example how critical it is that you be able to compare information from one text to another, that none of the texts are believed to contain truth, that they’re each an argument for a particular point of view and you have to look for the differences and similarities and the evidence and for evidence of bias and so on. And so for the teachers, not only engage kids in that kind of reading which obviously would be important, but to actually get engaged in discussions about how they’re doing that and why they’re doing that and how that might differ from how you might read a science book or whatever I think is pretty important as well. You know, you’re trying to get kids to think about the role that literacy plays in those disciplines and how it works.