

[Tim Shanahan] That's an interesting question because the Common Core State Standards... a lot of people look at those and think that the name of them are the Common Core State Standards for the English language arts, but in fact the name of that document are the Common Core State Standards for the English language arts and for literacy and social studies and science and some technical subjects. In other words, that document, that set of standards recognizes that reading really is specialized as you move up through the grades and certainly by the time you get to middle school and high school, the reading of science is very different than the reading of literature, is very different from the reading of history, so they literally have separate standards for each of those and they're not in the province of the English Department, they're the province, obviously, of the history/social studies literacy standards province, so the social studies department and so on so they essentially, they don't lay out things like study skills. They're not content area reading standards. They really are disciplinary literacy standards that lay out what it is a reader has to be able to do to give us sophisticated reading in history or in science or whatever. So what they do is they specify standards that require that students be able to do things like trace the source of a document and analyze what that means in terms of how you interpret the document, which I'd argue is a very sophisticated aspect of reading. One that's not terribly useful when you're reading a math text or you're reading something in a science class and yet for history reading it's an example of a real specialized routine, and Common Core is really requiring that our students be able to do that and of course the tests that are coming that states will be using to try to evaluate how kids are doing in meeting the Common Core Standards are going to be having kids read, you know, historical documents or science articles and will be asking questions that are very much aligned with those specialized ways of using information or thinking about information, so Common Core is really a solid way of requiring the kids to learn disciplinary literacy practices.