Ingrid Lees – Parafield Gardens High School

The students have to be able to express themselves, so when their materials goes to SACE it’s just the power of the written word, unless they’ve done a multimodal thing like the student isn’t there, you don’t have their photo, you’ve got no other information about the student and what they can put on a piece of paper.

Literacy comes into play with every single one of them because in order to demonstrate achievement against any of those standards, generally it’s the quality of the written word, the quality of the writing that the student can produce as to whether they can show that achievement to the A level, so you won’t show insightful anything without being able to write in an insightful way, so I think the literacy support is just paramount.

Advice

If you only taught RP in the set lessons that’s given each week, you’ll only just get by, and that’s the same for students as it is for teachers. At our site we spend so much time outside of classes with additional lessons, but also just in the feedback we do, whether that’s time taken with written feedback, or in speaking to students directly, with literacy support.

High expectations

We’re a low SES school and I think it’s really really important that those students get to come into my class and know that anything is possible, that they really can achieve, and I don’t mean that every single student can get an A or an A+ but that they can do better than they ever thought possible, so for a student to experience growth, so they might come into my class at the beginning of Year 12 as a C student, a C+ and to leave it several grade points higher, I’m absolutely convinced every student can do it, and I help them to believe that too, otherwise they won’t look at these standards and see the possibility of achieving more than they would have thought possible.

What I liked

Being able to go around to different schools, see what different students have done that is different to my own student cohort, to look at their posters on the wall, to see their resource and it’s been a really good culture of sharing, I haven’t had anyone say no you can’t photograph that, or no you can’t have a copy, it’s been yes, and can I have yours, so that’s been a really great outcome of the day for me.