

11 Sep 93

Dear Sirs,

I congratulate the personnel & people that fund C-SPAN. Ironically, it isn't your daily coverage of the congressional floor that I like the most. It is your examination, in the least partizan way possible, of the issues surrounding the congressional floor, the President, the Courts, and the other ideas "important" people have.

I find your selection of "interesting" people a bit perplexing however. It seem that many of them are reporters. I'm not trying to "dump" on reporters. Though they have lots of information, at a superficial level, they seldom seem to have the insight I'm interested in. Your Booknotes piece is interesting precisely because you interview someone who has some detailed insight into a particular topic. The redeeming factor to your journalist round tables is that there is a chance of an interplay of opinion. What I would like to see C-SPAN do is mix the two up. C-SPAN should put together a round table of people with insight into a particular area. Even here you need to seek some less recognized individuals. I think there is probably a lot of people around who have good ideas and are experts in an area but who are not widely known. For instance, you are always getting calls about the Trilateral Commission and other conspiratorial organizations. These callers get their information from somewhere. Why haven't you gotten together (at the same time or separately)

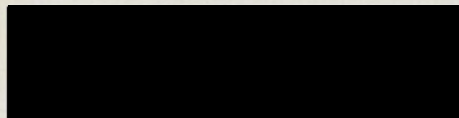
a group of folks who know something about it and are of differing opinions. Another for instance; You could have a round table of reporters, with differing ideas, talking about the widely held belief that reporters aren't doing their jobs right (whether it is too soft on some political figure or too hard).

One point I want to stress is that your experts round table needs to seek out folks who are ~~2~~ relatively unknown but make it their job to know a lot about a popular topic. "Joe Sixpack" probably won't know much about the various methods health care can be delivered. A doctor may even have a hard time with it but a panel or several groups of economists, insurers, lawyers, and doctors of differing points of view would be an interesting panel to listen to - especially when your excellent interviewers use their impartial style to get polite discourse from various viewpoints.

You always seem interested in knowing your viewers demographics. To that end, here are mine: I'm nearing 29 years old. I am economically conservative (a capitalist) and socially liberal (I keep from telling you how to run your life and vice-versa). I am registered as an Independent and found myself voting Libertarian in the last election. I find it amusing how seriously Rush (whom I find fun to listen to) is taken by reporters and ~~liberal~~^{all} politicians.

Keep up the good work!

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