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[redacted] Camden, NJ 08104

Dear C-SPAN Staff:

Please find attached my essay on why I watch your network. Thank you for the opportunity to try and win this contest, but, even more important, thanks for giving me the chance to put together my feelings—no matter how flowery I got—about your network and staff.

It was, indeed, long overdue.

Very truly yours,  
[redacted]

P.S. Brian, "I've got the Philadelphia Inquirer in front of me, and today's front page says....."

-JP-

"I WATCH C-SPAN BECAUSE..."

by [REDACTED]

Living in the Northeast Corridor... smack in the middle of the Washington-to-New York axis, one can become myopic in opinion, influenced by the great newspapers of the region and the media centers of the broadcast industry.

C-SPAN offers its' viewers a depth and breadth of public opinion, through call-in shows, that makes Gallop, Field, Roper, and Harris pale in comparison.

With commercial, prime time, television in full retreat from its' responsibility to educate its' viewing audience... C-SPAN takes the fancy wrapping off the political/governmental process of this democratic republic.

C-SPAN's simplicity of presentation is its' saving grace... devoid of editorial flavor, WE can make our own judgements as to the guests, the topics, and the process itself.

I am reminded of the dialogue of Robert Altman's classic study of americana, "Nashville", where the British reporter asks the local press agent, "Just who ARE these people?"; With a semi-pained expression he responds, "Honey, these are the people who elect Presidents !".

For all the liberties and freedoms we are blessed with by birthrite in this country, we are asked to give little back to it... what we owe our nation is to be the best informed citizenry possible... each up to our own capabilities, but, never thinking, never deciding, through the fog of ignorance, but through the light of information.

C-SPAN's low key, no flash, approach has never served its' viewing audience better than in this, the most volatile Presidential Primary Campaign in our nation's history.

Early handicappers and pundits... rushing to tell the public where to put the "smart money", are now mocked by their previous predictions... great reputations lie tarnished by the wayside of the ever changing, state-by-state results.

C-SPAN... like the old "Delta Queen"... has taken the public on an informative and educational ride down this river of primaries, all the while avoiding the rocks and shoals of preconceived notions and theories.

Nicely done, "Captain" Brian and your mighty crew !!!

In this era of flashdance analysis/reporting... C-SPAN offers its' viewers the option of the comfortable waltz... a chance to develop your own thoughts, with no rush to judgement.

You're all winners, C-SPAN Staff, but, in fact, the people have won !!! Somewhere... Thomas Jefferson is smiling... BROADLY !!!