

[REDACTED]
Waco, Texas 76706
[REDACTED]

" I watch C-SPAN because ..."

I watch C-SPAN because it is the most comprehensive public affairs broadcasting done in the United States today. C-SPAN's programming is thoughtful, stimulating, informative, and thorough, characteristics sadly absent from the formats of other networks.

Whether it is debate on the floor of the House, hearings before Congressional committees, election programming, or seminars on foreign affairs, I can count on C-SPAN to provide me with the information and insight as to what is happening in Washington and the world so that I may be better able to intelligently participate as a well informed citizen.

C-SPAN not only provides me with information on the vital issues facing us all, but also gives me insight into how our system of government works by televising that system in action. Seeing a congressman make an impassioned plea to his colleagues from the "well" of the House, or watching committee members listen to testimony on a particular bill from parties with a specific interest in it, gives me a better understanding of how our deliberative system of government actually works.

Also, by insulating itself from the crass commercialism that pervades most other network news programs, and by lifting many of the debilitating time strictures which prohibit thorough study and analysis of the major issues of the day, C-SPAN provides an invaluable service to all United States citizens in furnishing an accessible forum for intelligent and comprehensive debate on all of the major topics that we currently face. This, combined with the balanced presentation of all sides of a particular issue, gives us all the opportunity to exercise our own minds in choosing a position with which we are most comfortable.

The Cable-Satellite Public Affairs Network is to be commended for the admirable way in which it performs a vital public service. It should be available in more communities across the United States.