

NEWS FROM:

C-SPAN AMERICA'S NETWORK

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"C-SPAN in Classroom" Call-in Program Set for March 8

90-Minute Program to Explore Creative Uses of C-SPAN in Education

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- On Saturday, March 8 at noon (est) C-SPAN plans a special 90-minute call-in program to kick off its "C-SPAN in the Classroom" campaign.

According to the network's education project director, Susan Swain, this call-in program is designed to listen to instructors to discover how they currently use C-SPAN to illustrate their coursework. This information will be compiled into a booklet for distribution to the education community.

"For years, we have been hearing from teachers who write to tell us that they tape our events and use them in class to demonstrate the political process or teach journalism," says Swain.

"We hope these teachers -- and others -- will telephone this program to suggest creative ways to use C-SPAN programming as a teaching tool."

(C-SPAN has always granted educational institutions full off-air taping rights to its programming for instructional use.)

During the program, C-SPAN will interview teachers who have written the network with descriptions of their use of C-SPAN in the classroom. From callers, the network hopes to garner additional ideas on the use of C-SPAN programming and to listen for potential problems. Callers will be polled to ascertain if their schools are wired for cable, have satellite dishes, or require teachers to seek outside sources for videotaped materials. Swain adds that callers will be asked for the suggestions for appropriate instructional materials -- such as reading lists, lesson plans, and more -- that would make C-SPAN more useful to greater numbers of teachers.

"The education community is a new one for us," says Swain. "We're not going to presume educators needs. We want to take the time to listen to instructors -- and learn from them -- before developing our "C-SPAN in the Classroom" materials."

"C-SPAN in the Classroom" is C-SPAN's effort -- introduced in 1986 -- to introduce greater numbers of educators to C-SPAN programming so they may adapt it for classroom use. In so doing, C-SPAN hopes to interest a potential new generation of C-SPAN viewers in a closer observation of the democratic process.

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C-SPAN viewer call-in lines: (202) 628-2525 (eastern & central time zones)
(202) 783-2727 (mountain & Pacific time zones)