

C-SPAN in the Classroom

... a backgrounder

C-SPAN has long been called a "living civics lesson" and we think you'll agree that this program—being developed in 1986—to bring C-SPAN's unique public affairs programming into use in the nation's classrooms is a natural for us.

THE AIM:

To introduce teachers at both college and high school levels to C-SPAN and demonstrate ways they can incorporate C-SPAN's programming into courses on law, politics, history, journalism, and more.

THE GOALS:

To enrich students' understanding of our government process; to increase awareness and understanding of C-SPAN programming at the cable system level; and, to build a new generation of C-SPAN viewers by involving them with our programming at an earlier age.

C-SPAN ON THE COLLEGE CAMPUS:

A number of college professors have already written to us about their use of C-SPAN in the classroom. We hope to increase the number of college campuses with access to C-SPAN and develop a system for alerting professors in key disciplines to programs they could use to illustrate their coursework. In addition, this year's election-related road trips will incorporate programs with political science professors that will introduce them to C-SPAN on a first-hand basis.

C-SPAN IN THE HIGH SCHOOL:

C-SPAN has already had a long association with high schools through the Close Up Foundation—a Washington-based government studies program. Through our two organizations, we can continue to introduce high school teachers to the concept of using C-SPAN telecasts as a valuable teaching aid.

THE FIRST STEP:

In the spring of 1986, a brochure developed with the help of the Benton Foundation and the advice of teachers and education policy experts will be published. It will be a simple explanation of C-SPAN and suggest some of the varied ways C-SPAN's programming can be developed as a teaching tool, such as:

- taping Congressional sessions for civics and history classes
- assigning journalism students to "cover" one of C-SPAN's uncut public events
- using C-SPAN's morning journalism show along with daily newspapers to demonstrate the reporting of issues
- developing questions on current events for students to phone in to a Congressional call-in program

*For more information contact: "C-SPAN in the Classroom" at (202) 737-3220, or write
400 N. Capitol St. NW, Suite 412, Washington, D.C. 20001.*

C-SPAN in the Classroom

What Educators Are Saying

"[I'm an] educator who frequently calls on his extensive home library of C-SPAN tapes for his own teaching. . . . The numerous programs you have sponsored that look introspectively at the press come in handy when we discuss freedom of the press."

Prof. Paul Siegel
Illinois State University

"With the advent of live coverage of Congressional proceedings through C-SPAN, a new resource exists bridging the gap between political theory and political reality. . . . A dramatic way to enhance teaching about Congress and the broader American political system."

Prof. Stephen Frantzich
U.S. Naval Academy

"C-SPAN: a unique service which is of much use to us here at the School of Journalism. We often assign viewing of the sessions and then ask the students to write a story from what transpired. It is the next best thing to having those Congressional sessions right in our town."

Richard Yoakum
Indiana University

"I have found C-SPAN's coverage . . . most informative and helpful to me and my students in American Government and Congress Politics courses."

Prof. John F. Bibby
University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee

"Our faculty are always looking for fresh ways to present supplementary material and many items from C-SPAN would be most useful."

Lloyd W. Brown
University of South Carolina

"I tape call-in programs and sessions of the House of Representatives and play them for the kids in my classes. The call-in programs . . . let the kids hear how people across the country feel about the issues."

Steve Tebow
Florissant, MO School System

"I have been watching your series, 'America and the Courts,' on the C-SPAN channel of our local cable system with a great deal of interest. . . . Some of the segments would be excellent for classroom use in my law-related Political Science courses."

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