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Turnersville, NJ 08012  
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450 words

### "Why I Watch C-SPAN"

I watch C-SPAN because, unlike the many superficial shows on TV, C-SPAN provides insightful and comprehensive programs I enjoy watching. These programs have substance. They go to the heart of a matter; be it a congressional hearing, such as Edwin Meese's confirmation, or coverage of a presidential candidate's speech. C-SPAN illustrates, better than any political science text could, the inner-workings of our political system. C-SPAN takes me behind the scenes and probes meaningful issues. Whether coverage of a candidate, a congressional hearing, or a live call-in show, C-SPAN lets me know what's happening in Washington and the nation.

I particularly like C-SPAN of late because of its in depth coverage of the presidential candidates. When Jackson spoke to an hispanic group recently, I got a deeper understanding of his ideas for more social services and increased employment. I felt the same when Hart spoke to workers in Philadelphia, and when Mondale spoke to students in Iowa.

I also like "C-SPAN's coverage" of the media's coverage

of the presidential candidates. It showed me why some candidates get more exposure than others and, more interestingly, how both candidate(s) and the media try to "jerk each other around."

Televising congressional hearings are quite purposeful, in my view, because they show exactly what our politicians do in Congress. Seeing Sen. Metzenbaum drill Edwin Meese, and then argue with Sen. Hatch about Meese's qualifications as Attorney General was exciting to watch. The politicians's quarrel made them look and sound like real people - not just pencil-pushing lawmakers!

Without question, though, C-SPAN's live call-in show is the network's best program. The topics are always timely and informative. Brian Lamb, Carrie Collins, and the rest moderate very well allowing the discussion to flow nicely. Most questions are good and the guest's response is thorough. I also enjoy learning about the different attitudes and perceptions of people across the country. (I only wish I could get through and reveal some of my feelings.)

In short, I watch C-SPAN because it informs, educates, and, in its own way, entertains me. It's made me more interested, and certainly more knowledgeable, about politics.

This is particularly gratifying since I aspire to a career in politics. It's for these reasons - the unique, enlightening, and thought-provoking coverage and programs - I watch C-SPAN now, and look forward to in the future.

Congratulations on your fifth anniversary C-SPAN and keep up the good work.

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