

Title of Session: Social Studies Forum - C-SPAN

Moderator: Michael Hutchison

Guest Speaker: Sara Conant

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MichaelH virtually clears his throat and wishes he'd brought another Hershey's with him

MichaelH: Hello Everyone,

DonnaMS: hello

MichaelH: Welcome to tonight's Social Studies forum

MichaelH: we have a super topic to talk about tonight, one that I think will be of great interest to all of us

DonnaMS: smiles

MichaelH: as you may know, C-SPAN in the Classroom recently revised their web site, and we have a guest who will show us some of the cool resources we can get as well as lessons, and all sorts of fun stuff

MichaelH: now, let's start with some introductions... would everyone like to tell us who you are, what you teach, and where you are geographically located?

BJB2: I'm an art teacher in south central Pennsylvania

DonnaMS: teach in Cornwall New York at the HS level- I teach US History and Economics and Psych

MichaelH is a social studies teacher in southwest Indiana

MichaelH looks to Teresa

TeresaHi: My name is Teresa and I live in Houston, Tx and teach all subjects in kindergarten.

MichaelH: Sara's our guest, but I'll let her introduce herself, too

SaraLC: Hi! I've been working in the Education department at C-SPAN for about 5 years. I grew up in upstate NY and now live in the Maryland suburbs of D.C.

MichaelH: cool!

MichaelH: As I mentioned, Sara's here to tell us about the new, updated C-SPAN in the Classroom site, as well as discuss some things that we can take advantage of that C-SPAN offers

DonnaMS: excellent Sara!

MichaelH: Sara, do you want to start with the new website, or do you have something else you want to mention first?

SaraLC: Website is a great place to start

MichaelH: ok... I'll let you tell us a bit about it, and we'll go from there

SaraLC: This past summer we really looked closely at our mission and decided we needed to be a little more strategic in what we were offering to teachers...

SaraLC: So, we now cater mostly to middle and high school teachers of civics and government.

SaraLC: Each summer we work with our teacher fellows (more on that later) and they were a huge help to us this past summer in creating content that you'll see on our site.

SaraLC: Our site contains tons (over 110) video clips that are divided up among topics - and linked to standards!

DonnaMS: awesome!

BJB2 agrees

SaraLC: I should mention - we even changed our name, ever so slightly to C-SPAN Classroom - and our URL is www.c-spanclassroom.org

TeresaHi: That sounds great. I know the teachers at my school will be interested in these.

MichaelH notes that everyone can click on the link Sara is sharing, but take just a second to look so you can come back to the discussion

SaraLC: If we want to take a quick look at the sight I can explain a little more in detail?

SaraLC: On the left side of the web page you'll see our 6 main topic areas. These are the 6 topics that we have divided our video clips into.

MichaelH reminds everyone too that all the links Sara is sharing will be featured in the transcript you will get via e-mail

DonnaMS: okay....

SaraLC: If you click on one of those topics, you'll get to a page with a featured video clip.

DonnaMS: should we try that now, Sara?

DonnaMS: or wait?

MichaelH: I think it would depend on the length of the clip, Donna

SaraLC: From that page, there is one clip with discussion questions. You'll see a link towards the top right of the page that will link to a corresponding national standard.

MichaelH: all the clips are in Real Video format, Sara?

DonnaMS: that is fabulous!

SaraLC: You can certainly watch a video clip if you like - but perhaps not the whole thing! They usually vary from 2-7 minutes in length.

DonnaMS: okay

SaraLC: clips are available in Real Player or Windows Media.

SaraLC: And you can download either for FREE on our web site.

DonnaMS: wow!! I really could have used the Constitution Day clip and lesson a couple of weeks ago...

MichaelH: mine loaded in Real Player automatically... maybe I just have Real Player as my default video player?

SaraLC: You probably do

SaraLC: Under the discussion questions you will see a link for more video..click there

MichaelH: I thought that was an interesting lesson concept, Donna

SaraLC: You will get a page with a long list of video clips...

SaraLC: From this page you can watch any of the clips that are listed.

DonnaMS: this is so fantastic...my dept. is going to love me when I present this to them

SaraLC: We are adding new clips to the sight on a daily basis - the past few weeks have certainly been full of current events - so the site is always fresh.

DonnaMS: I already emailed the link and page to 2 of my colleagues as we were speaking

SaraLC: Our job is to take what airs on C-SPAN and find a clip that will work well in classrooms

SaraLC: since C-SPAN is long format, we realize it can be time consuming for teachers to find clips of current events programming

DonnaMS: you bet it is...our librarian is wonderful about trying to "tivo" stuff for us

DonnaMS: but she can't catch everything unless we give her a head's up

SaraLC: I should mention that all C-SPAN programming is copyright-cleared for use in the classroom, forever

MichaelH shows <http://www.c-spanclassroom.org> to Karis

MichaelH: Sara, how long do you leave clips in the video archives... for example, if I wanted to use Patriot Act clips next fall, would they be there?

SaraLC: Is everyone still looking at clips, or can I talk about a few other features?

MichaelH is ready

DonnaMS: I am here and you have my attention

TeresaHi: I am here. I will look at the clips later.

SaraLC: OK, If we go back to the C-SPAN Classroom homepage, look at the right-hand column

TeresaHi: I may get to wrapped up in the videos and miss the discussion.

SaraLC: Yes, I encourage you all to spend some time reviewing the clips - it can be overwhelming at first glance, there is a lot there!

SaraLC: But in time it will become familiar!

SaraLC: If we can go back to the C-SPAN Classroom homepage

DonnaMS: ok

TeresaHi: I'm there

MichaelH follows Sara back to the C-SPAN Classroom home base

SaraLC: You'll notice on the right hand side the first bullet is "sign-up here"

DonnaMS: yes..

SaraLC: We are a FREE membership service

SaraLC: That means that you sign up and tell us what you teach and you will receive e-mails from us notifying you of upcoming programming, special promotions, contests, etc.

TeresaHi: It is sounding better every minute.

DonnaMS: yes Teresa.

MichaelH: That's a great resource, Sara... the e-mail alerts are really helpful

SaraLC: We have done free posters, videotape giveaways, student contests, the list goes on!

DonnaMS: they are thank you to Michael's email alert...I am here right now

MichaelH: the Electoral College poster from last year was a great resource!

SaraLC: You'll also see a link for our copyright policy that I touched on, feel free to read later!

DonnaMS: Oh, my dept. chairperson gave us a copy of that

SaraLC: Electoral College poster was very popular! We also provided online worksheets to go with

SaraLC: The next link down is Standards...a dirty word?

DonnaMS: ummmm..??

MichaelH: We don't really get all that much pressure in Indiana, especially in 12th grade government

MichaelH . o O (kids have already passed their state mandated testing, etc.)

DonnaMS: ours is in grades 8 and 11

DonnaMS: in NY

SaraLC: We took the national standards for civics and government developed by the Center for Civic Education and have reprinted them on our site

SaraLC: We also looked at the standards in NY, CA, TX, and FL and have included those as well

DonnaMS: neat!!

SaraLC: If you click around in this section you'll see how we've related each of our 6 topic areas to the national standards

SaraLC: We've also listed a state standard (from one of those 4 states) where they apply

SaraLC: Next you'll see Fellowships and Grants

SaraLC: Each summer we offer a teaching fellowship to 3 teachers in middle or high school that demonstrate use of C-SPAN in their classroom

SaraLC: They get to come work in our office in DC for 4 weeks, are of course paid, and also receive a housing stipend..

SaraLC: The application should be online in the next week or so

DonnaMS: very interesting...nice job with making those standards so easily available in the PDF format!!

MichaelH: Sara, I think you've got Donna hooked

DonnaMS: I am printing out the detailed Economics standards (scope and sequence) for my state right now!

DonnaMS: ;)

SaraLC: And I'll mention our grants program. We offer teachers the opportunity to apply for free videotapes. You can click on Grants to learn more!

SaraLC: Also keep in mind you can videotape any program, or watch from your computer for free!

SaraLC: Any questions about any of our online content?

TeresaHi: I am interested in the free videotapes. We are a Title One school and the more we can show and demonstrate it seems the children learn much better.

TeresaHi: The videos may be for the upper grades and I will be passing this information along to these teachers. Thanks.

SaraLC: Here is the link to the C-SPAN Archives, you can search around for programs that may be of interest to you. <http://www.c-spanstore.org/shop/>

DonnaMS: I have a question Sara..

SaraLC: yes

DonnaMS: it says at the bottom of the site member of cable in the classroom...what is that?

SaraLC: Cable in the Classroom is a non-profit education foundation that provides educational programming to schools

SaraLC: Are you familiar with Access Learning magazine?

MichaelH: Donna, not to steal Sara's thunder tonight, but they have a cool website

DonnaMS: no...not familiar

DonnaMS: what is it all about?

MichaelH: Sara mentioned Access Learning... there's a link here to the magazine...

TeresaHi: No I am not familiar with it.

MichaelH: <http://www.ciconline.org/default.htm>

SaraLC: They print about 10 times a year - they provide a guide to educational programming for all cable networks that are members of Cable in the Classroom. C-SPAN has been a member from the beginning.

MichaelH: they have a great taping calendar as well as programming tips and good stories about how to use cable TV in your classroom. And, someone you know contributed a "Teaching Tip" to the October Access Learning magazine

SaraLC: I saw that Michael! Great job!

DonnaMS: awesome

MichaelH: quiets down so Sara can show more

SaraLC: I'd love to talk a minute about our student video competition...

DonnaMS: so cool Michael!!

DonnaMS: okay Sara...student video competition?

SaraLC: You'll see at the bottom of our site a promotion for StudentCam...here is the URL <http://www.studentcam.org/>

SaraLC: This is an annual video contest we are doing. We did this last year and had students focus on an election issue.

DonnaMS: what do they have to do this year?

DonnaMS: I already have a student in mind.

SaraLC: This year we are asking that they choose an issue that is of interest to them, their community, the nation and show both sides, or multiple sides of an issue through a video documentary.

DonnaMS: that is so great!

SaraLC: They must include C-SPAN programming this year - something new from last year

DonnaMS: what can they win?

TeresaHi: What a great way for students to learn. They are teaching themselves while they are doing something they enjoy.

SaraLC: You can read about the prizes...there are some opportunities for teachers to get prizes too. <http://www.studentcam.org/prizes.asp>

SaraLC: Winning videos also will be on our web site, and there is a possibility some may air on C-SPAN. No promises though!

MichaelH: C-SPAN had a very cool contest on the Gettysburg Address last spring, too

SaraLC: Last year we had over 700 entries

DonnaMS: laughs

SaraLC: Yes, we did an essay contest that coincided with the opening of the Lincoln Museum in Springfield.

DonnaMS: neat!

SaraLC: Students were asked to write about what a new birth of freedom meant to them.

MichaelH: Sara, are there plans to do something similar to that again this year?

MichaelH: . o O (an essay contest?)

DonnaMS: yes I would like that too!!

DonnaMS: For teaching the Declaration of Independence

SaraLC: Not at this time, but you never know what will come up! Last year's was incredibly successful.

DonnaMS: or the Constitution???

SaraLC: Something else we can offer to teachers is our C-SPAN School Bus
<http://www.c-span.org/schoolbus/index.asp>

MichaelH perks up to hear about the School Bus

SaraLC: We are a mobile production studio!

DonnaMS: get out of here!!

DonnaMS: that is so cool

SaraLC: We go to schools to talk to kids about what C-SPAN is, how it is different from other cable networks, how to be critical viewers of media, and talk about how the Bus can be used in live productions.

MichaelH: Donna, I've seen the bus twice... you'd love it

DonnaMS: we are hosting a SS conference at our HS this year...How come we didn't get the bus?

SaraLC: It's very cool! If you are interested in having the Bus visit, you'll notice the "Request the Bus" link in the right hand resource box.

SaraLC: We probably didn't know about your conference, Donna!

DonnaMS: awww : (Donna is sad

DonnaMS: I will check into applying for the bus

SaraLC: Can I answer any questions?

MichaelH: we had several middle school classes go through a couple of years ago

MichaelH: Sara... you might mention about C-SPAN alerts for daily programming

TeresaHi: No questions. It has been very interesting. Thanks for having me.

SaraLC: Sure, a great way to keep current with what's airing on our networks is to sign up for C-SPAN Alert. <http://www.c-span.org/watch/cspanalert.asp?code=Watch>

SaraLC: A daily e-mail comes out around 5pm ET each day and lets you know what will be airing that night, and early next morning.

MichaelH: Sara, do you mind giving everyone contact info in case they want to e-mail you for more information?

SaraLC: You can customize the Alert based on which programs you are most interested in.

SaraLC: You can contact me through e-mail at: sconant@c-span.org, or via phone at 202-626-7985

MichaelH: Anyone else with any questions for Sara this evening?

TeresaHi: Thanks for your time. I hope everyone has a good night.

DonnaMS: No, I won't hold her any longer...but I will say, "THANK YOU" so much Sara AND Michael for organizing this awesome chat and being here this evening

MichaelH: Sara, it was great having you with us this evening, and we appreciate you taking time from your schedule to fill us in on the wonderful resources C-SPAN classroom has to offer

DonnaMS: I will look like a champ at my next SS meeting !! HA HA

MichaelH: Sara, thanks so much for being here tonight!

SaraLC: It was fun! Thanks for having me! Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions that should pop-up as you start using our resources!

DonnaMS: Thank you Sara!

MichaelH: Please feel free to come back anytime if you would like

SaraLC: Thanks!!

MichaelH: I think you have a big fan in Donna

SaraLC: A new convert!!

BJB2: Thanks, Michael and Sara.

MichaelH hopes Donna will sign up for C-SPAN classroom stuff... it's a great resource