

Title of Session: Social Studies Forum - C-SPAN Classroom

Moderator: Michael Hutchison

Guest Speakers: Meredith Rapp, Adrienne Hoar, and Joanne Wheeler

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MichaelH waves

MereditGst4: We are excited to be here. Thanks.

MichaelH: Joanne, good to see you :)

JoanneGst13: Michael, thank you again for all you've done to promote this chat -- we really appreciate it. Lots to do at the start of a school year, and you've been a great advocate of C-SPAN's.

MichaelH: I was glad to help out, Joanne

MereditGst4: Ditto that!

MarkS: Michael is an amazing educator!

MichaelH: Thank both of you for your great post to the Classroom list last night

BrianEM joined the room.

MarkS: hi Brian, welcome

MichaelH waves to Brian

MichaelH: we usually have a few tardy teachers anyway, so we might be a minute or two before we actually start

JenniferD1: easy on the tardy teachers...

MarkS thinks this is a nice size group for good discussion

MichaelH: me too, Mark...

MereditGst4: Hi Adrienne.

AdriennGst16: Hi Meredith

JoanneGst13: Let's get started

CherylDa: Hello Adrienne

AdriennGst16: Hi Cheryl!

MichaelH: Welcome to tonight's Social Studies forum!

MichaelH: Tonight's topic is a great one, and one I've been waiting for several weeks to host.

MichaelH: It's an honor for us to have C-SPAN Classroom join us this evening

ChiefGst18 joined the room.

MichaelH: Many of you know some about C-SPAN, but tonight we are going to learn all about how we can use C-SPAN in our classrooms with our students

MichaelH: before we get started, though, let's do some introductions

MichaelH: would everyone please tell us who you are, where you teach, etc.?

ChristinB: I teach 6th grade ELA and SS in the Barnstable Horace Mann Charter school on Cape Cod

JenniferD1: Hi! 7th grade American History Teacher - Powhatan, VA

CherylDa: Cheryl Davis - Miramonte High School, Orinda, CA - Tech coordinator

MichaelH is Michael Hutchison, a social studies teacher in southwestern Indiana. He knows our guests tonight via the C-SPAN Campaign 2008 Educators Conference held last month in D.C.

ChiefGst18: I teach U.S. history and sociology for juniors/seniors in Yorkville, IL

MarkS: I'm Mark Schlager, director of Tapped In, and I want to thank you all for coming from the Tapped In staff

DavidWe is one of the Tapped In HelpDesk volunteers and helps teachers with technology in New Jersey

NicholasSe: I teach 11th grade US govt in Lancaster PA.

RyanGst14: Hi everyone...I teach AP and regular government classes at El Monte High School in El Monte, CA

KamelaGst15: I teach Speech and Debate at Center High School in KC, MO.

BrianEM: I'm a former K-8 teacher and have recently joined the NewsHour online team to help support and collaborate with educators

MeredithGst4: Hi everyone. I'm Meredith Rapp - C-SPAN's Education Program Specialist

MichaelH: Brian, we had NewsHour here several years ago for a session

JudiF joined the room.

MichaelH waves to Judi

AdriennGst16: Hello all, I am Adrienne Hoar - C-SPAN's Education Coordinator

DavidWe waves to Judi

JudiF tries to sneak in

MichaelH: Judi, we are just started on introductions... you're fine

MichaelH . o O (Judi)

JoanneGst13: Thank you all for your time! I'm VP of Education at C-SPAN, and we're always interested in how to help you teach social studies.

BrianEM: That would be Leah Clapman I'll bet - she's my boss.

JenniferD1: Hi Adrienne!

MichaelH: yep, haven't heard from Leah for some time

AdriennGst16: Hello Jennifer!

MichaelH looks to BJ, Judi, or anyone else for introductions...

JudiF: Hi everyone

JudiF: I'm Judi Fusco... I'm one of the founders of this community :-)

MichaelH: As I mentioned, many of us know about C-SPAN, but we are going more in-depth this evening... how we can use the resource with our students, especially with the upcoming presidential campaign

JennifeGst19 joined the room.

MichaelH: who would have ever thought the impact the Internet would have had on this presidential race?

MichaelH: Meredith is going to show us an outstanding online resource that we can use with our students... we'll follow her lead for a bit, and if you have questions, she can answer them about C-SPAN Classroom

MichaelH: Meredith, tell us a bit about C-SPAN Classroom

MeredithGst4: Hi again. For those who are unfamiliar with C-SPAN Classroom, we are the free resource for teachers.

MeredithGst4: We feature weekly downloadable video clips paired with discussion questions and other valuable resources.

MeredithGst4: Our primary focus is to help enhance civics and government content but really any subject area teacher can use us.

MeredithGst4: All of our resources are tied to national and selected state standards and I can say from experience as a former 8th grader teacher our web site is extremely valuable for teachers. How many of you are already members?

MichaelH is

ChristinB: I am

RyanGst14: I am

JenniferD1: Here!

ChiefGst18: I am

KamelaGst15: I am, and I am not a SS teacher, but use it all the time

JennifeGst19: I am

BrittanGst17: me too

BrianEM: Not yet

CherylDa: Me too!

NicholasSe: I am. great clips to show in class

JenniferD1: Brian you're missin' out!

BrianEM: Not for long! I'm opening another window in my browser!

MeredithGst4: For those who are not, why don't you check out our web site for a few minute and then I can continue discussing our resources - www.c-spanclassroom.org

MichaelH: Looks like you already have a devoted following, Meredith :)

JenniferD1 smiles

MichaelH: take a second to look at the site, then pop right back here to continue the discussion

DavidWe: <http://www.c-spanclassroom.org/>

MeredithGst4: Since we are at the beginning of the school year, I am glad to be here tonight so I can point out some of our latest initiatives for the 2007-08 school year.

MichaelH reminds all that all links Meredith shows us this evening will also be available in the transcript members get at the end of the session.

MeredithGst4: By the way, I apologize in advance for any spelling errors...can't get the teacher out of me.

JudiF smiles

MichaelH checks to see if everyone can see the C-SPAN Classroom website

BJB2 . o O (and for late arrivals, a reminder to go to the Actions menu in the top right of the chat and click on DETACH)

MeredithGst4: In terms of this school year, I have three items I wanted to point out specifically.

MeredithGst4: First, we have exciting news about our StudentCam competition - our annual student video documentary competition that asks middle and high school students to pick an issue of national importance and create a ten minute or less video documentary on that issue highlighting both sides.

MeredithGst4: The exciting news is....the prize money for the competition doubled and now totals \$50,000. Also, the number of total prizes increased from 45 to 92. How many of you are familiar with our StudentCam competition?

CherylDa: I just talked to a class of students about the StudentCam today and showed them the website - by the way very cool graphics on the StudentCam site - the students were very interested.

MeredithGst4: Thanks Cheryl. I was just about to direct everyone to our web site which just changed for this school year. It is www.studentcam.org.

MichaelH: the videos are student produced, but they look very, very professional!

JenniferD1: I spoke to a former student the other day about it. He's in 11th grade and is excited to pull a couple people together to work on something for it.

MichaelH: check out the site, but hurry back here for more of the discussion :)

MeredithGst4: And the best part about the documentaries is it gets students analyzing issues from multiple view points. What a great way to get them tapping into those higher levels of thinking. Bloom would be so happy ;)

MichaelH: Meredith, that must be brand new... I don't even remember seeing that earlier today :)

MeredithGst4: On our web site, you can watch the winning entries from this past year. Also, the top twenty-five winning entries appeared on C-SPAN!

DavidWe . o O (cool!)

JennifeGst19: how many students can work in a group

MeredithGst4: Our web site is brand new. We just changed the look to reflect the latest information. We are also making the deadline earlier this year - December 31st

MeredithGst4: Students can work in groups of three or less.

DavidWe: Meredith is there support from C-Span in any way for technical issues (editing, etc.)?

MeredithGst4: Students do not have to have teacher help. We actually just ask for them to provide a faculty advisor if they want. We have plenty of entries without a faculty advisor. Teachers can assign the project as an in class project, extra credit project or simply discuss it with students especially noting the fact that prize money is involved.

MichaelH: So, if I have kids that are technologically-inclined, I could just recommend they go to the site, find out about the contest, and enter themselves?

MeredithGst4: In fact, our first prize middle school winner actually donated his \$1000 prize money to a soldier who returned from Iraq. Originally, he was going to buy a guitar with his money but changed his mind. When a guitar company heard that story they donated a guitar to the student. Now, is that a great lesson or what?!

NicholasSe: About how many entries last year?

DavidWe . o O (great story)

JenniferD1: Do students need to join C-SPAN classroom to enter themselves online, or how does that work?

CaitilinW: Will have to share that story with students!

CherylDa: The experience for students is really powerful. There is usually a great back-story that goes with each student created film. It is a fantastic project-based learning lesson for a class or for a team of students.

MeredithGst4: We had about 250 entries with over 500 students participating. We are expecting more this year since we doubled the prize money. This year students pick an issue that will be featured in the presidential campaign and create a documentary on it. All the rules and information are posted on www.studentcam.org. You can also email our education department at educate@c-span.org if you have any questions or need help/suggestions.

AdriennGst16: Cheryl, didn't some of your students get to meet Al Gore this past year?

MeredithGst4: Cheryl has some great stories from her experience and her students' experience with StudentCam.

CherylDa: Yes - and it made such a impression on them that in making the film what they learned and who they got to meet.

MeredithGst4: StudentCam is an amazing project for you and your students. I encourage all of you to really consider entering this year. There is nothing to lose and it makes it even more interesting now that the total number of prizes increased. Now the second item I would like to point out in our 07-08 school initiative relates to the '08 campaign.

MeredithGst4: Beginning in January (as most of you Classroom members already know), we started featuring weekly Campaign Clips in addition to our Clip of the Week. For those of you who have used these in the classroom or just looked at them for your own information, what do you think?

MichaelH: Definitely a great "hook" to get kids interested in the campaign and learning more about it

MeredithGst4: We devoted an entire section of our web site to the campaign. You can see it in the middle of our home page - www.c-spanclassroom.org

JenniferD1: They are so current, you can't help but stay on top of the issues and it is easy to then encourage the kids in the same way.

MichaelH: I've used some of the archived clips, Meredith... we looked at two about public service with Obama and Fred Thompson the first week of school

MeredithGst4: We feature one Democrat and one Republican clip, unless we are featuring a clip on campaign commentary.

NicholasSe: In the Fall we focus on political participation. We'll be using them to understand political parties as well as the issues. My kids will voting next Fall!

MeredithGst4: We have a running list of all of the candidates and the clips we already have created on them which you can get to from our home page by clicking on the link that says... "For all campaign clips..."

CaitilinW: Are you using these with middle school kids?

MeredithGst4: How exciting Nicholas!

KamelaGst15: Having the students compare and contrast the candidates and the various positions on the issues is a great teaching tool. My students really enjoy it and have started researching more on their own to discuss other ideas they find.

CherylDa: The questions that go with the clips are great for starting class discussions.

JenniferD1: Not all of my middle schoolers can grasp the higher level concepts, but it is perfect for differentiating for my gifted students and they love the visual.

NicholasSe: Do you offer transcripts or text track for my non English speakers?

MeredithGst4: The fun thing about our Campaign Clips is we pull them from C-SPAN's Road to the White House series and our new addition to C-SPAN 2 "Campaign Tonight"

MeredithGst4: The reason I say this is "fun" is because we feature candidates in venues that traditional TV does not cover like kitchen talks or appearances in coffee houses.

MeredithGst4: We do not offer transcripts at this point.

MichaelH: the non-traditional approach is a great way to have students see the "human" side of the candidates more than just stunted speeches

NicholasSe: It's always good to have multiple channels for ELL kids (about 1/4 of the class).

MeredithGst4: If you look at the list of the candidates we have so far and all of their clips, you will notice some like Gilmore still appear even though they dropped out. We are going to leave those candidates in and just indicate when they drop out. A great process

visual.

MeredithGst4: You and your students can go back and see if candidates are consistent in their speeches or if they change at all.

MichaelH: And of course, the campaign clips give teachers and students a better chance to see candidates who might not make the "nightly news" as much as Obama, Clinton, McCain, etc.

MeredithGst4: We will continue to feature these clips throughout the campaign. You can also keep your eyes open for other resources in addition to our clips to help you teach this exciting election!

ChristinB: I teach sixth grade - I've watched some of the clips, but I'm trying to figure out how to use them with this grade level.

MeredithGst4: Another great C-SPAN resource to help with campaign coverage is our web site www.campaignnetwork.org where things like candidate commercials appear.

JenniferD1: As a seventh grade teacher, I use the clips as a jumping off point for more in-depth discussions, and also real life examples of things we're covering in our history curriculum.

MichaelH: Christine maybe you could have the kids watch clips... help them understand the concepts, and then have them draw "campaign posters", or come up with campaign slogans?

MeredithGst4: Christine - You may want to use it as a visual for your students and get them introduced to the two parties and some of the candidates from each. Just basic information.

CherylDa: I haven't yet see Campaign Tonight. The clips of the candidates really do show a variety of topics. I like that and the different venues. Are there plans to include campaign ads? I know they are on CampaignNetwork Org.

MeredithGst4: We are hoping to have a link to those in the future as well as some other resources.

MichaelH: Meredith, I didn't see if anyone else said that they weren't a C-SPAN Classroom member... want to tell them quickly about the link to join if they would like?

MeredithGst4: Since I am watching the clock, I want to make sure I cover initiative #3 - C-SPAN's Presidential Library Series.

MichaelH: go ahead with the Library series first, Meredith

MeredithGst4: Of course Michael...if you are not a member and want to join our FREE fabulous web site all you need to do is:

MeredithGst4: 1. Go to www.c-spanclassroom.org

MeredithGst4: 2. Click on the link at the top right corner that says "Teachers Register Here"

BrianEM: I just joined C-SPAN Classroom while listening to the interesting conversation!

MeredithGst4: 3. Fill out the form which takes a few minutes and then we send you a confirmation email. It is as easy as that.

MichaelH: there are some great resources that teachers can get from C-SPAN as well by membership. I still use my Campaign 2004 Electoral College map... it's HUGE!

MeredithGst4: As a member you will also get any free premiums we have to offer like posters and DVDs.

ChristinB: Sorry, I was working on another site too, I will try using the clips as a introduction - my kids are just figuring out the set up of our government and having visuals will most likely help

MeredithGst4: Welcome to Classroom Brian

BrianEM: Thanks

MichaelH: Go ahead with the Library series, Meredith... I'm really looking forward to that

MichaelH is like a kid at Christmas with this series...

MeredithGst4: Christine - you can always email us at educate@c-span.org if you need help or suggestion.

ChristinB: Thanks

MeredithGst4: Okay as for our Presidential Library Series it begins this Friday at 8 pm ET on C-SPAN.

MeredithGst4: We are featuring a behind the scenes look at Presidential Libraries from Hoover to Clinton.

MichaelH: Meredith, will the different episodes be shown more than once?

MeredithGst4: The series will highlight some rarely or never before seen video and audio recordings. For example, viewers will be able to see some of Lady Bird Johnson's home movies. It is going to be amazing!

MeredithGst4: The series will begin this Friday and we will air one Library each week for 12 weeks.

ChristinB: Will highlights or clips be available online too?

MeredithGst4: The series will air at 8 pm ET on Friday and then reair at 11 pm ET.

MichaelH: Thanks Meredith... I think the same week you do the JFK Library is the same week "The War" airs on PBS, and I want to record both...

DavidWe smiles

MeredithGst4: We also have an amazing web site as a companion piece - www.c-span.org/presidentiallibraries/

MeredithGst4: You can get to the web site also from www.c-span.org. It appears as a banner in the top right.

DavidWe wonders if some of the people logged in as guests may want copies of this transcript

MeredithGst4: Now, the really exciting part (as if it couldn't get more exciting) is we will have resources for teachers to accompany the series on C-SPAN Classroom.

MichaelH perks up big time on that point

JenniferD1 smiles

CherylDa: That's fantastic!

KamelaGst15: Definitely check out the resources that accompany the video clips. There are some great adaptable worksheets and ideas to use in your classroom.

MeredithGst4: The resources on Classroom are designed to go with each of the Libraries and there are some extension activities to help you really spice things up ;)

MeredithGst4: Kamela is correct and she was one of our Summer Fellows who helped create resources.

MeredithGst4: For those of you unfamiliar with our Fellowship program we have three teachers come in the summer for four weeks (and they get paid) to help us better serve teachers. If you are interested you can get all the information from our Classroom website

on the left navigation bar.

JenniferD1: Sweet! I teach Hayes to Reagan, so there has got to be tons for me there! Thanks C-SPAN!

MichaelH: Looks like you have some new fans of C-SPAN Classroom, Meredith!

KamelaGst15: The fellowship is amazing!

MereditGst4: You are correct and like I said the series will highlight information that no one else has featured before.

MichaelH: Meredith, you already mentioned this... but in case someone missed it... if someone needs to contact C-SPAN Classroom... what ways can they do this?

CaitilinW: Thanks so much for all the info!

MereditGst4: I know where I will be every Friday night starting this Friday. Although I am still young, this is what I consider a good Friday night ;)

MichaelH: I think it will be several great Fridays, Meredith

MereditGst4: Thanks Michael..If you want to contact Classroom you can send an email to educate@c-span.org and we will help you however we can.

MichaelH: I don't want to give anything away, but there will be some footage of a recently departed White House staffer that will surprise you how he looked years ago...

MereditGst4: And you will see a "tan and lean" LBJ in the word of Lady Bird herself.

DavidWe smiles

DavidWe . o O (before the scar, I'm guessing)

JenniferD1: I'll check in a minute, but Meredith is there a schedule of the libraries featured in the upcoming series?

MereditGst4: Yes Jen...if you go to the Libraries web site you will notice about 1/3 of the way down on the right there is a link for the schedule. Great question!

MichaelH: Meredith, we're about at the end of our time for tonight... but please feel free to share any other information about C-SPAN Classroom you'd like for everyone to know. Also, I COULD take a vote, but I think everyone here would love to see you come back for more sessions as the campaign progresses

MichaelH . o O (all in favor, say "aye")

DavidWe: Good job leading the discussion, Meredith

DavidWe: Aye

MichaelH says AYE

BrianEM: Aye Aye

NicholasSe: for clarification: are there going to clips on the libraries site? or do we have to watch in real time?

JenniferD1: AYE!! Great Job Meredith!! Thank you C-SPAN

MichaelH: yes, Meredith, you did super!

JoanneGst13: Yes - www.c-span.org/presidentiallibraries --- clips, audio and video!

MereditGst4: I would be honored. In terms of anything else to say...I hope you will all check out StudentCam, our Campaign resources and the Presidential Library series. Please feel free to email us with any questions. Thanks for having me. Good luck with you school year.

NicholasSe: yeah! thanks!

JenniferD1: Thank you Joanne & Adrienne!

CherylDa: Thanks Meredith - and Michael for hosting this.

MichaelH: I'm glad everyone could join us tonight. Let's do it again soon!

MichaelH: BTW: next session....

MichaelH: We're going to look at resources and lessons for "The War"

MichaelH: I couldn't get Ken for this session... but I did get Stacey Schwartz from WETA in Washington, D.C.

MichaelH: We'll be looking at all sorts of neat resources you can use with this film.

DavidWe: sounds great, Michael

MichaelH: Time for the session is 8 p.m. Eastern, September 26

MereditGst4: Sounds really interesting.

MichaelH: You're welcome to join us, Meredith :)

DavidWe encourages Meredith to join Tapped In as a member

DavidWe: It has several advantages

MereditGst4: Thanks. I will consider doing so.

MichaelH: yes it does, David... she could set up a C-SPAN group room, and get transcripts

DavidWe: And, it, too, is FREE, Meredith

JenniferD1 smiles

MereditGst4: I love that word!

MichaelH: of course, she would have to put up with you and I, David...

DavidWe would try to be helpful

MichaelH: just don't get him started on the Yankees, Meredith

DavidWe: Members all receive a transcript of discussions - we'll have a transcript of this discussion in the TI Archives, soon

MichaelH: within a week or two

CaitilinW: Thanks everyone...gotta go!

MichaelH: Meredith, we had a good turnout... about 19

MereditGst4: That's wonderful. Thanks again for getting this organized.

CherylDa: Yes, thanks all - off to dinner here in California.

MichaelH: Thanks for joining us, Cheryl

MichaelH: nice talking with you again

MereditGst4: See you Cheryl. Thanks for coming.

DavidWe waves to Cheryl

CherylDa: See you all soon online.

BrianEM: Thanks Meredith, thanks C-SPAN, thanks Tapped In, and thanks Michael!

MichaelH: I finally got the presidential trivia quiz all right... got stuck on the question about the president who presided over a treaty to outlaw war

MichaelH: Thanks for Joining us, Brian

JenniferD1: Wilson

MichaelH: nope.. presidential libraries didn't start until Hoover

MeredithGst4: That quiz is a tough one.

MeredithGst4: Good try Jen.

MichaelH: took me awhile... forgot about the Kellogg-Briand Treaty

AdriennGst16: Michael, I'm impressed! That quiz is quite tough!

DavidWe: When was that, Michael?

MichaelH: Well, I also got stuck on the classical music one, Adrienne

MichaelH: thought for sure it was Truman

AdriennGst16: Nixon

MeredithGst4: David - there is a quiz you can take on the Presidential Libraries that appears on our new web site.

BJB2 waves goodnight. Thanks, everyone, for an excellent discussion!

MichaelH: yep, finally got that one

MeredithGst4: The Presidential Library web site.

AdriennGst16: David.. if you stay with us for much longer, we'll give you all the answers.

MichaelH: Good night, BJ... thanks for joining us

DavidWe: Thanks, Meredith - not sure I want to compare my score with Michael, though

DavidWe hugs BJ

MichaelH: check <http://www.c-span.org/presidentiallibraries/contest.aspx> David

MichaelH: I knew the first president to be born in a hospital one :)