

Working in groups of 4-6, students will create a 5-8 minute video documentary, to include some C-Span programming. Students will choose between the following topics:
A) One of our country's greatest strengths;
B) A challenge the country is facing.

The deadline for this project is January 20th, 2010. Students will begin working on the project November 16th.

This project will allow students to show their creativity while exploring issues and strengths that are within our country. It is a perfect social studies project.

The following objectives come from the C-Span student cam website: The student will be able to,

1. identify C-SPAN's StudentCam competition and understand the requirements/goals of StudentCam.
2. identify and critically analyze current issues of national significance.
3. understand the difference between a documentary and a movie.
4. demonstrate the use of varying viewpoints in a documentary and distinguish the difference between objective and bias reporting.
5. create a five to eight minute documentary, which synthesizes their analysis of their chosen topic.

Additional objectives include:

1. Identify at least three strengths/issues that our country currently has/faces.
2. Students will learn how to navigate through the C-Span Classroom website and materials that are available to them.
3. Make connections between their topic and a specific standard for 7th grade social studies.

In trying to meet the state standards for 7th grade social studies, the students are subjected to a rigorous, time-constrained curriculum. This project will allow students the opportunity to get "outside" their normal social studies curriculum and do something that is interesting as well as offers challenges and rewards (there are prizes available for the student cam projects).

In addition, Standard 7-7 for 7th grade Social Studies is Major Changes and Challenges of the 20th Century and Beyond. This project would connect to this section perfectly, and it is a section that we barely have enough time to get to.

Video Camera Equipment:

1. Sony Handycam DCR-SR47 - \$350 at Walmart.
2. Protective Carrying Case - \$20 at Walmart.
3. Computer and video editing software (provided at the school)

I have two other 7th grade social studies teachers interested in this project as well. My video camera will also be used. I would use personal funds to cover the rest of the cost. In addition, the video camera would be put to use in additional projects and for future C-Span video projects (they do the competition every year).