

**Title of Session:** Social Studies Forum - C-SPAN in the Classroom

**Moderator:** Michael Hutchison

**Guest Speaker:** Clare Levy

**Title of File:** 20040922ssfcspan

**Date:** September 22, 2004

Room: After School Online Room

**MichaelH:** Welcome to tonight's Social Studies forum

**MichaelH:** Hey, guess what, the election is less than six weeks away

**ClareGst6:** 41 days!

**MichaelH:** and, in some states, like Indiana, we're required to teach the political process...

**MichaelH:** it's state law

**MichaelH:** so, we need some great resources to help us do that with our kids

**MichaelH:** and...

**MichaelH:** none is better than C-SPAN in the Classroom

**MichaelH:** and tonight, that's our featured resource, and we have a special guest to show us around

**MichaelH:** so, we'll talk about that in a second, but first, let's do some introductions of who all is here

**MichaelH:** would everyone like to say who they are, where they're from, what they teach, etc.?

**ClareGst6:** I'll be happy to go first.

**MichaelH:** just a sec, Clare

**ClareGst6:** Hi, everyone! I'm Clare Levy, and I am tonight's C-SPAN in the Classroom "special guest."

**ClareGst6:** I'll hold on..

**MichaelH:** does everyone know how to detach to make the chat area bigger?

**GayleT:** Gayle-from University of Houston, will teach 6-8 social studies- any of the disciplines or grade levers

**MichaelH:** you're fine, Clare

**GayleT:** yes-just did

**MichaelH:** who else is out there tonight?

**ShayneGst7:** Hi everyone! I'm Shayne Russell-- a middle school library media specialist in Tabernacle, NJ.

**MichaelH** is a technology curriculum facilitator in a small school district in southwestern Indiana

**MariaMM:** I'm from the University of Houston and I will teach 4-8 Science but I am still interested in learning about History

**ClareGst6:** I have been at C-SPAN for over two years. Prior to that, I taught high school history (9th, 10th, and 12th grades) in NJ (where I went to college) to get my certification in secondary social studies.

**MichaelH** figures David will have something to say about New Jersey

**BJ:** I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania.

**SusanR:** I am a K to 8 OT occasional teacher from Ottawa, Ontario Canada

**DavidWe:** I'm David Weksler - I teach adults (often teachers) how to use technology more effectively for learning and teaching -

**MariaMM:** C-Span is a good innovative way to gain student's interest in the classroom.

**DavidWe . o O (** will do professional development for food )

**DavidWe:** And, I'm in New Jersey

**DavidWe . o O (** near New York City )

**MichaelH:** As I mentioned when we started, we need to think about fair, balanced, and interesting resources we can use to teach our students about the political process

**MichaelH:** and C-SPAN in the Classroom fits the bill perfectly

**MichaelH:** And that's why Clare is here tonight.

**MichaelH:** Clare, maybe we could start with some background about C-SPAN... when it was founded, what services it provides, etc. Maybe a bit about Brian Lamb?

**ClareGst6:** Definitely.

**MichaelH** thinks he's a fellow Hoosier

**ClareGst6:** Brian Lamb founded C-SPAN in 1979. (Yes, Brian grew up in Lafayette, IN and went to Purdue.)

**ClareGst6:** When C-SPAN began, it had a commitment to offering gavel-to-gavel (complete) coverage of the House of Representatives.

**ClareGst6:** Then, in 1986, C-SPAN 2 was created for the purpose of offering gavel-to-gavel coverage in the Senate.

**ClareGst6:** Now, we even have C-SPAN 3 to cover events that are PUBLIC AFFAIRS-related, but that we cannot show LIVE while the House and/or the Senate are in session.

**ClareGst6:** I should back up a bit. C-SPAN stands for Cable-Satellite Public Affairs Network.

**MichaelH:** and it's all underwritten by cable companies, isn't it, Clare, so it is 100%non partisan

**DavidWe** likes C-SPAN radio, too

**ClareGst6:** We are completely funded by cable companies. (So, all of those who think that their tax dollars go to funding C-SPAN, I'm sorry to say, they are incorrect.) C-SPAN is a public service created by cable companies.

**ClareGst6:** You guys beat me to it.

**MichaelH . o O (** whoops )

**DavidWe** smiles

**DavidWe:** Sorry, Clare

**MichaelH:** We're just excited

**ClareGst6:** So, yes, while we are funded by cable companies, these cable companies have NO say in our programming decisions.

**DavidWe** nods

**ClareGst6:** Our mission is to offer full, unedited, balanced programming of public affairs events.

**ClareGst6:** Really, we want to make the rest of the world feel like they are on the floor of the Senate, or in a committee hearing at the Capitol, or at a press briefing at the White House.

**ClareGst6:** Oh, one more thing...

**MariaMM:** Clare can you offer a brief description on how you would go in implementing this program into the classroom?

**SusanR:** Canada has something similar called CPAC (Canadian Parliamentary Affairs Channel). They do take feeds from C-SPAN

**ClareGst6:** We do not have commentators. We always say, "Our job is not to tell our audience the message, rather, it is to deliver the message to you."

**ClareGst6:** Yes! CPAC is very similar.

**MichaelH:** Clare, Maria had a good question:)

**ClareGst6:** So, Maria...

**MichaelH:** , let's talk about C-SPAN in the Classroom... what sorts of resources are there? If I'm an elementary or secondary teacher, what can I expect to find or use?

**ClareGst6:** My job at C-SPAN in the Classroom is take C-SPAN programs and package them in a way to fit the needs of your classroom

**MariaMM:** Sometimes students may not understand everything they hear especially Middle School students who still need more background information on political affairs.

**MariaMM:** Ok

**ClareGst6:** I do this by taking LONG programs (i.e. the President's speech at the U.N. yesterday) and making a short clip or two that would work as a teaching tool in your classroom.

**ClareGst6:** Then, I would write a lesson plan or brainstorming ideas as suggestions for your implementing such programs/speeches in your classroom.

**ClareGst6:** I would also provide you with a graphic organizer or a worksheet to help get you on your way.

**MichaelH:** that's cool!

**MariaMM:** This sounds interesting..

**ClareGst6:** For example, a brand-new resource that we are working on right now with a group of teachers from around the country is something called CAMPAIGN CLIP OF THE DAY.

**MichaelH:** Clare, is there an example of that on the site I can point the audience to this evening?

**ClareGst6:** <http://www.c-span.org/classroom/clip/camclip092004.asp>

**MichaelH:** wait a second, folks...

**GayleT:** And useful for the middle school students awareness of how the political process affects the voter's decision.

**MichaelH:** go ahead and click on the link, but don't be gone too long, we have a lot of good stuff yet to talk about

**MichaelH:** just a couple of minutes

**MichaelH:** remember all the links will be in the transcript

**ClareGst6:** This is a clip from John Kerry's speech at NYU. There, you will find the short clip (as well as the entire speech) and teaching ideas to go along with it.

**MichaelH** checks to see if those who looked at the page are back with us

**ClareGst6:** C-SPAN in the Classroom's website is [www.c-span.org/classroom](http://www.c-span.org/classroom). So, everything I mention tonight is navigable from that site.

**MariaMM:** Clare do you believe that integrating technology, for example writing a play on a political issue and then have the students perform and video tape it will help them learn a little bit more.

**GayleT:** I am so glad to have the site as well as your information on it.

**ClareGst6:** Absolutely! There is nothing more valuable than hands-on learning.

**MariaMM:** I agree

**MichaelH:** Hey, Clare, when you are ready (go ahead and finish what you want so far), let's talk about the CAT

**ClareGst6:** On that note...that is why we value using video so much. There are so many different learning levels and learning "types" out there. We want to offer students as many options as possible. When you see something LIVE (or through video), it just offers a different option of "learning"

**ClareGst6:** So, CAT...

**ClareGst6:** Curriculum Advisory Team

**ClareGst6:** Michael is one of our CAT members

**DavidWe . o O ( The Hoosier Cat! )**

**ClareGst6:** Our CAT members are comprised of teachers all over the country (coast to coast) that work with us year-round in developing lessons and teaching tools.

**ClareGst6:** So, for example, the teaching ideas you see on our CAMPAIGN CLIP OF THE DAY resource are suggestions and ideas from our CAT members

**MariaMM:** How can a teacher become a member

**ClareGst6:** We have an application process.

**ClareGst6:** To learn about how to become a CAT member, you can sign up for C-SPAN in the Classroom.

**ClareGst6:** I probably should explain more about C-SPAN in the Classroom, specifically.

**MichaelH:** that's how Michael H learned about it

**DavidWe:** Available to any teacher, Clare?

**ClareGst6:** YES! for any teacher

**ClareGst6:** Basically, C-SPAN in the Classroom (CSiC) has two components

**DavidWe:** That's great, Clare

**ClareGst6:** One is comprised of the resources I have just been describing in which we provide lessons, archived online video, worksheets, organizers, etc. FREE to all teachers

**ClareGst6:** Second, CSiC is also a FREE MEMBERSHIP SERVICE.

**ClareGst6:** When you become a member, we send you an email every week about a program AND a classroom resource that is relevant to what you teach.

**ClareGst6:** You can sign up at <http://www.c-span.org/classroom/enroll/>

**MariaMM:** For any suBJect?

**DavidWe:** would imagine so

**GayleT:** What do the programs consist of?

**MichaelH:** yep

**MichaelH:** Maria, I've had a lot of elementary teachers sign up

**ClareGst6:** YES! Most of our resources are govt., history, social studies, civics, language arts related, but there are also numerous resources for science, math, etc.

**ClareGst6:** Gayle, our programs are all PUBLIC AFFAIRS related...but that is not just govt.

**DavidWe:** wonders about math resources from CSiC

**ClareGst6:** We do lots of history programming and non-fiction book programming...really, anything and everything that has to do with public affairs, we do it.  
**ClareGst6:** David, I have a perfect visual to get you started in your math class.

**ClareGst6:** This link will give you a preview of our 2004 ELECTORAL COLLEGE MAP

**GayleT:** Sounds like a fit for many oBJectives/

**SusanR . o O ( wonders if Canadians can sign up )**

**DavidWe:** Thanks, Clare

**ClareGst6:** <http://www.c-span.org/classroom/2004vote/poster.asp> this is the Electoral College Map poster

**MariaMM:** I'm glad this type of resources are available.

**GayleT:** I am looking forward to FURLing several of these offerings as well as bookmarking the individual programs.

**ClareGst6:** Oh, and if you have any questions, you can email [educate@c-span.org](mailto:educate@c-span.org), or call the Educators Hotline at 1-800-523-7586

**DavidWe:** cool web page, Clare!

**ClareGst6:** I will answer both of those

**ClareGst6:** And, if you have ideas for a lesson and want to see if you can find a way to use C-SPAN with it, I can help!

**ClareGst6:** Because C-SPAN is a non-profit and very much of a "team" company, our staff is on the smallish side.

**MichaelH:** but still, very few cable concerns will have a toll-free number to call for assistance

**ClareGst6:** There are actually 4 of us on the education team

**GayleT:** Your site sounds like the answer to all I was wondering how to put together to meet interactive government and citizenship oBJectives.

**DavidWe** raises his hand

**ClareGst6:** Two of us write most of the content, and then we have two web masters who do all the designing

**ClareGst6:** Yes, David?

**DavidWe:** Hold a regular session in Tapped In to do just what you are doing tonight

**DavidWe** wonders what Clare thinks of that

**MichaelH** chimes in

**DavidWe . o O ( once a month, perhaps? )**

**ClareGst6:** Hmm. Not a bad suggestion....I think the team might like that idea...

**MariaMM:** So only two of you make the decision of whether or not the material is age and language appropriate.

**MichaelH:** David, Clare is welcome anytime she'd like to come here...

**DavidWe . o O ( likes the "team" idea )**

**DavidWe** nods to Michael

**MichaelH:** or I'd be glad to help her set up a C-SPAN chat on her own, too

**ClareGst6:** Even though two of us write most of the content, we all weigh in on most of the decisions.

**MichaelH . o O ( we'd just need to set a schedule )**

**DavidWe** offers assistance with Tapped In

**DavidWe:** Anytime you want to talk about this, Clare...do let me know -

[wex@pobox.com](mailto:wex@pobox.com)

**ClareGst6:** Yes, I am afraid that my computer illiteracy would explain why I am one of the "content" people

**MariaMM:** lol

**MichaelH** thinks Clare has done great tonight in TAPPED IN

**DavidWe** believes in Clare's computer literacy

**ClareGst6:** So, how often do you all meet for TAPPED IN sessions?

**DavidWe** agrees wholeheartedly with Michael

**GayleT:** Same here!

**MichaelH:** Clare, the Social Studies forum is every second and fourth Wednesday

**ClareGst6:** And how many are usually "chatting" at a time?

**MariaMM:** Yes she has, I have learned quite a lot about C-SPAN.

**MichaelH:** depends on the topic and the moderator

**ClareGst6:** THANKS!

**DavidWe** . o O ( math is once a month first Tuesday of the month at 7pm, east coast time )

**MichaelH:** but, remember, we also generate a transcript that anyone can see

**DavidWe:** The calendar is a good thing to look at for Tapped In, schedules.

**MichaelH:** yeah, was going to project that David, unless you have the URL handy

**SusanR:** The K to 3+ Great Resources session is twice a month

**ClareGst6:** Have you guys found what you have learned from these sessions to be really valuable to your teaching?

**MariaMM:** It is always interesting to find more resources for teachers available on the web.

**DavidWe** knows the URL for the calendar

**GayleT:** This has been a very informative forum; I am really excited to go to the C-SPAN website & browse as soon asd this is over.

**DavidWe** . o O ( <http://www.tappedin.org/calendar> - adjust it to your time zone as it will default to west coast time )

**SusanR** . o O ( next Tuesday..Classroom Organization/Management )

**MichaelH:** hey guys, can I relate one other story about C-SPAN and Clare (and Meg, who was supposed to be here, but is ill)

**MariaMM:** I have learned a lot, now I'm interested in viewing the clip myself.

**DavidWe** nods

**ClareGst6:** Remember, the C-SPAN IN THE CLASSROOM site is golden. [www.c-span.org/classroom](http://www.c-span.org/classroom)

**DavidWe** remembers that site and will share it with other teachers

**MichaelH:** I have several teachers doing an election project right now (not C-SPAN), but Meg and Clare took an interest in helping, and they've been expediting some things for me with several teachers... that's definitely a "user friendly" resources

**DavidWe:** Do you have handouts that I could have, Clare, to give out?

**DavidWe** . o O ( quantity )

**MichaelH** . o O ( Meg was with us in our session last winter, but she is a "Nyquil Poster Child" this evening )

**ShayneGst7:** Okay, I put my sandwich down so I could say this info has been great for me too. Will share with my social studies teachers tomorrow! (Nice having dinner with you guys!...)

**DavidWe** wonders about the type of sandwich....

**ClareGst6:** And, I might also suggest that you download our brand new newsletter. This newsletter explains pretty-much everything that I have explained tonight.

**ClareGst6:** You can download it from <http://www.c-span.org/classroom/faq.asp>

**ClareGst6:** You can make copies, and pass it out to your colleagues

**MichaelH:** Thanks, Clare, I'd like to share that, myself with my high school teachers

**ClareGst6:** Or, you can just go to the PDF link for the newsletter (probably a better one to link to) <http://www.c-span.org/classroom/pdf/newsletter.pdf>

**MichaelH:** hey, Clare, let's say I'm a teacher and I need some help...say I can't get the video running, or have another problem, can you all help me with that, too?

**DavidWe** . o O ( setting the clock on the VCR? )

**MariaMM:** Your resources Clare are valuable to me and I have a friend who is majoring in social studies so I will be glad to pass this information to her.

**ClareGst6:** Well, as for the video issue, I would first suggest that you check to see if you have REAL PLAY or WINDOWS MEDIA on your computer. But, regardless, you can always call that hotline number 800-523-7586 or email [educate@c-span.org](mailto:educate@c-span.org) for help!

**MariaMM:** I will post the C-SPAN link to my web page so people could view it.

**MichaelH:** no, David, I meant that there's actually streaming video on the web site

**DavidWe** understands

**ShayneGst7:** Great idea, Maria!

**MichaelH:** there's a good collection of campaign ads, for example

**MariaMM:** You're welcome, **ShayneGst7**.

**ClareGst6:** Yes! And we even have ads and speeches from elections since 1960

**MariaMM:** wow

**GayleT:** DO you have the daisy one for the Goldwater campaign?

**ClareGst6:** If you are interested in teaching about the election, you can find our CAMPAIGNS & ELECTIONS INDEX at <http://www.c-span.org/classroom/govt/campaigns.asp>

**MariaMM:** Could a teacher find information on the Water Gates Scandal, for example if we were to be teaching this to the students.

**ClareGst6:** Yep! We've got the Daisy Commercial (you can find it from this index....look at the right side bar where you see "historic elections")

**MariaMM:** Or are resources limited?

**GayleT:** Thank you, Claire.

**ClareGst6:** A number of ideas jump to mind for teaching about Watergate

**DavidWe** remembers watching the Watergate hearings on pubic TV in the summer of 1973

**MariaMM:** Could you give an example.

**GayleT:** I do too, David. Mostly I remember Dean's admission to the taping process.

**DavidWe:** I remember Alexander Butterfield mentioning the taping system ---- WOW!

**ClareGst6:** The first place I would send you would be to

[http://www.americanpresidents.org/classroom/nixon\\_clip.asp](http://www.americanpresidents.org/classroom/nixon_clip.asp) where you can find a clip list of our 3-hour program on Richard Nixon. (You don't have to watch all 3 hours. That's why we have a clip list.) You can watch it online....there's also more I could tell you. Just email me or call

**DavidWe:** I was hooked on that stuff, that summer

**GayleT:** It was like the world stopped spinning and we were all riveted to that revelation.

**DavidWe** agrees with Gayle

**ClareGst6:** We also have several author interviews about Nixon at our BOOKNOTES site ([www.www.booknotes.org](http://www.www.booknotes.org))...including an interview with NIXON himself back in the early 90s

**GayleT:** What a rich resource you have, Claire!

**DavidWe** wonders if C-Span radio is streamed on the Internet since David doesn't live in the DC broadcast area

**ClareGst6:** I must say that as a former teacher and as one who is excited about returning to the classroom one day, I am a big fan of C-SPAN in the Classroom and all of C-SPAN's resources

**MariaMM:** You are certainly are very knowledgeable, Claire.

**ClareGst6:** YES! You can get C-SPAN Radio on the internet

**DavidWe** agrees with Maria

**ClareGst6:** Thanks, everyone

**DavidWe:** Thank you, Clare. Well done!

**GayleT:** Thank you, Claire.

**MichaelH:** Clare, anything else you'd like to share?

**MariaMM:** Thank you, Claire you did a great job today.

**ClareGst6:** If you just go to C-SPAN.org, you can link to C-SPAN, C-SPAN 2, C-SPAN 3, and C-SPAN Radio and watch/listen to them all live (look at the links on the left side bar)

**MichaelH:** Any questions from anyone?

**DavidWe** waits patiently

**GayleT:** Can I skip the rest of my education and just sit at the C-SPAN site

**ClareGst6:** Oh, there's just so much rich material at our site, and I would love to discuss it with you all further. Feel free to get in touch at any time!

**MichaelH** applauds for Clare... she did a FANTASTIC job!

**ClareGst6:** Remember, [educate@c-span.org](mailto:educate@c-span.org) and/or 800-523-7586

**ClareGst6:** c-span.org/classroom

**ClareGst6:** It was delightful talking to you all.

**DavidWe:** Thanks again, Clare

**MichaelH:** Clare, thank you so much for joining us, tonight!

**GayleT:** IT was rewarding hearing from you. Thank you Claire and Michael.

**ClareGst6:** And, for my first "chat" experience...

**MichaelH:** thank you everyone , for coming tonight!

**SusanR:** Informative session, Clare!!!

**ClareGst6:** I'd love to do it again.

**MichaelH:** sure, any time!

**MariaMM:** Everyone is was nice chatting with you especially you, Clare and thanks for your bright ideas.

**ClareGst6:** Bye, everyone. It was a pleasure.