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TEACHER'S GUIDE

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A high-tech radio chip worn by students would make traditional roll calls obsolete.

► This Week's Focus:

School Surveillance

Tiny Brittan Elementary School in Sutter, Calif., tried out a new way of keeping track of its students—radio tags. The school was not prepared for the controversy that followed. Are computer chips a good way to track students—or an invasion of privacy? Ask your students to decide. In another lesson plan this week, we look at how C-SPAN has changed news in America. And finally, we focus on summer jobs. Are they the best use of your students' summer vacation time? We include two related skills sheets to help them think about the best opportunities for them.

Everyday Newspaper Activity

Activity #30: Newspaper Careers. What is it like to be a newspaper reporter or editor? What skills are necessary? What is the work like on a daily basis? Who decides what gets in the paper? What other jobs are available at a newspaper? Invite a reporter or editor to speak to your class about these and other topics.

Coming Up Next Week

- **Should the Driving Age Be Raised?**
- **PARADE's All-America Boys Basketball Team**
- **Are U.S. High Schools Obsolete?**

► **In the News: School Surveillance and You; Do You Want a Summer Job? p.2**

► **In PARADE: How C-SPAN Changed America p.3**

► **Skills Sheets: Reading the Want Ads p.4; Imagine Your Future p.5**

Is School Surveillance OK?

Curriculum links: History, social studies, economics and sociology

Briefing: Brittan Elementary School—a small school in Sutter, Calif., which goes through grade 8—recently tested a new way to keep track of students. Every one had to wear a badge with a radio-chip in it. The badges, which also included each student's name, photo and grade, allowed the school to streamline attendance records and to follow students' every move. Officials hoped that the badges would improve safety and security and perhaps help prevent vandalism. Made by a company called InCom, the devices depend on the same technology that allows stores to track inventory. While the school was happy with the badges, many students and parents were not. One girl complained that wearing the badge made her feel like a grocery item. Some parents felt that the badges violated their children's civil liberties and privacy rights. Others worried that they might affect their kid's health. The school initially said that it would punish or expel students who didn't wear the badges. Some parents responded by contacting civil liberties groups, such as the ACLU and the Electronic Frontier Foundation. Finally, the school had a board meeting, attended by more people than could fit in the room. Faced with such a big controversy, InCom decided to withdraw from the test. After news reports, however, InCom said it had been inundated with calls from other school districts interested in the technology.

Classroom Debates

• **Is radio-tracking of students a good idea?** What are the pros and cons? How would you feel if you were radio-tracked? Would it interfere with your privacy rights? Or might it make you safer? Is there any way that the technology could be misused? There has been talk of driver's licenses or national ID cards with radio chips as an anti-terrorism measure. How might it help stop terrorism? What dangers might it pose?

Newspaper activity: Look through the paper. Can you find stories about the technology (called RFID) InCom uses? Other tracking technologies? What are they being used for? What other types of stories are covered in the science/tech. section?

Resources: Books: Critics of the badges compared this surveillance to that in George Orwell's classic novel, *1984* (Signet, 1990). Robert O'Harrow's *No Place to Hide: Behind the Scenes of our Emerging Surveillance Society* (Free Press, 2005). Web sites: Read news reports on the Brittan Elementary School badge controversy.*

Do You Want a Summer Job?

Curriculum links: Family and consumer science, college and careers, business, life skills

Briefing: Do you want a summer job? More and more teens are saying no and choosing summer school instead. Between 1985 and 2003, summer school enrollment has more than tripled. While many students are doing remedial work, others are taking challenging courses that will help them when they apply to college. Either plan can provide valuable experience. Students can increase the value of their summer jobs when they take charge of—and expand—their responsibilities, network, find mentors, pinpoint their likes and dislikes, and work through negative experiences. Of course, students may find great summer opportunities in other areas as well, including travel, volunteer work, subject-specific camps, etc. Summer is a good time to explore possible future careers, whether through jobs, courses or other activities.

Newspaper activity: Ask students to search the help-wanted section for summer jobs. Also have them try to spot future job openings by reading news articles (e.g., a new city pool, a teen job fair, or a mall expansion could indicate potential jobs).

Resources: Books: Neill Seltzer's *The 500 Best Ways for Teens to Spend the Summer* (Princeton Review, 2004), *Summer Opportunities for Kids and Teenagers 2005* (Peterson's Guides, 2004), *The Internship Bible, 10th edition* (Princeton Review, 2005), Nora Coon's *Teen Dream Jobs* (Beyond Words, 2003). Web sites: Find info on summer jobs and how to get them. Read about youth employment trends.*

Classroom Debates

• **How would you like to spend your summer?** Do you want a job? Or would you rather take classes, go to a camp, work as an intern, do volunteer work, travel or just hang out with friends? What are the pros and cons of each choice? What would you gain from each? What would be your ideal summer job? Why? What qualities would the employer look for in a job applicant? What would be the reasons to hire you?

*Visit www.paradeclassroom.com/links for links to all mentioned Web sites.

How C-SPAN Changed America

Curriculum links: Current events, social studies, civics, media literacy

Briefing: Brian Lamb created a new form of television, one that lets you get up close and personal with government newsmakers as they are making decisions that affect your life, reports Lyric Wallwork Winik in this week's PARADE. Lamb is the driving force behind C-SPAN, which has put the inner workings of Washington, D.C., on display. C-SPAN televises everything from Congressional proceedings, such as Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's controversial confirmation hearings, to Pentagon press briefings. Since its debut in 1979, C-SPAN has grown from one to three channels. Now, more than 28 million people watch each week. A former naval officer, Lamb was inspired toward more open government by the Vietnam War. "The government lied to us during Vietnam, and it was my desire, my own personal wish, to make it more honest," he says. Lamb doesn't have a political agenda. What C-SPAN does is to show the political process, unedited, so viewers can make up their own minds. Sometimes they can even participate. For example, on the morning show *Washington Journal*, viewers can call in to question policymakers. "During the lead up to the Iraq War," Lamb says, "it was the only place where you heard both sides, for and against." What bothers Lamb the most, he says, is that politicians never answer a question. In his opinion, they've learned that if they avoid something long enough, people forget about it.

Classroom Debates

- **C-SPAN presents unedited Congressional hearings and Pentagon briefings.** Do Americans need news that also provides analysis? Or do they have enough background to interpret news on their own? How much is hype? How much is real? What can you learn by watching a Congressional hearing as opposed to reading a summary of it in the paper? Lamb says that we are "better off as a society, the more media [we] have." What are the good points of having many media outlets? Negatives? Do most TV news programs and newspapers have a particular bias? Explain. How has C-SPAN changed America? How would it be different without it?

Newspaper activity: Watch a high-profile Congressional hearing on C-SPAN. Then read about it in the paper the next day. Which do you find more enlightening? Why? What are the pros and cons of each? Which way would you rather get your news?

Resources: Books: Stephen Frantzich and John Sullivan's *The C-SPAN Revolution* (University of Oklahoma Press, 1996). Web sites: Visit C-SPAN for schedules and other information, including C-SPAN Classroom.*

ASK MARILYN

Riddle

Question: What's the answer to this riddle: *What doth man love more than life, hate more than death or mortal strife? 'Tis that which contented men desire, the poor possess and the rich require, the miser spends, the spendthrift saves, and all men carry to their graves.*

Answer: Nothing!

Interact: Do students have questions for Marilyn? Send them to: Ask Marilyn, PARADE, 711 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017, or e-mail them to *marilyn@parade.com*.

FRESH VOICES

Girls and Science

For class discussion or writing assignment: Lawrence Summers, the president of Harvard University, recently suggested that women may not be genetically prone to excel at math and science. In this week's column, 15-year-old Shannon McClintock, the 2004 Grand-Prize winner in the 6th annual Discovery Channel Young Scientist Challenge, shoots back. Shannon has loved science since she was 4-years-old and was one of 40 top middle-school scientists—21 of them girls—at the Discovery Challenge. Do you agree with Dr. Summers? How would you respond to him?

Interact: Ask students, "What's the most memorable homework assignment you've ever had?" Send their comments to Fresh Voices, Box 5103, Grand Central Station, N.Y., N.Y. 10163-5103. Or send e-mail to *freshvoices@parade.com*. Students whose letters are published in PARADE will receive Fresh Voices T-shirts.

Answer Key:

Reading the Want Ads p. 4:
1. Ski lift attendant; 2. pizza delivery person, child care worker; 3. systems analyst; 4. systems analyst; 5. Ski lift attendants get season passes; 6. Tendo's wants resumes only, no phone calls; 7. They both get \$7 an hour, but the salesperson also gets commissions; 8. No. Singers must be over 18; 9. \$5 an hour plus tips.

Imagine Your Future p. 5:
Answers will vary.

Reading the Want Ads

Your newspaper's help-wanted section is a great place to start researching after-school jobs, summer jobs or future full-time careers. The jobs are listed alphabetically and often include common abbreviations. For example, an ad seeking a "Photographer, FT, exper. only. Must have recs. Excel. benefits" means that the employer wants a full-time photographer with experience and is offering excellent benefits. The candidate must have recommendations. An ad for a "Cashier, PT eve. Trnee OK. Good for HS student" seeks a part-time cashier to work evenings. The employer is willing to train a high school student.

Take a look at the sample want ads below and then answer the questions about them.

PIZZA DELIVERYPERSON, PT. Saturdays and Sundays. No experience necessary. Must have driver's license. \$5 an hour. Good tips. Apply in person at Dominick's, 342 Saucy Lane, Saturday afternoons only.

SALESPERSON, FT, at Trendo's Fashions at Prestige Mall. Must have exp. and excel. refs. \$7 an hour, plus commission. Send résumé, no phone calls please, to Trendo's, 442 Prestige Circle.

SKI LIFT ATTENDANT, PT, Snowy Ski Area. Saturday or Sunday work. Good for HS student. Will train. \$6 an hour plus season ski pass. Call Sally Chapstick, 555-1212, between 9 and 5 Wednesdays.

SYSTEMS ANALYST, FT. Must have 5 yrs. exp. and coll. degree, masters pref. Starts at \$78,000. Résumés only to Futura Dot.Com, 432 Techno Dr.

CHILD CARE WORKER. Flexible hours. \$7 an hour. Exp. pref, but not nec. Call Cookie at 555-1212.

SINGER, FEMALE, FOR LOCAL BAND. Must like Christina Aguilera. Weekend in-town gigs only. Over 18. Send tape to Coolest Gig, 524 Music St.

- Which job specifically says it's good for high school students?
 - child care worker
 - ski lift attendant
 - pizza deliveryperson
 - salesperson
- Which job says that no experience is required? Which one says it is preferred but not necessary?
 - systems analyst
 - salesperson
 - pizza deliveryperson
 - child care worker
- Which job listed here pays the most?
 - singer
 - ski lift attendant
 - systems analyst
 - child care worker
- Which job requires a college degree?
 - salesperson
 - systems analyst
 - child care worker
 - singer
- Which job mentions a special perk? What is it?

- John calls Trendo's to apply for the salesperson job. What has he done wrong?

- What pays more—being a child care worker or a salesperson at Trendo's?

- Ann, 16, sounds just like Christina Aguilera. Should she apply for the singing job?

- How much does the pizza delivery job pay?

Extra Credit: Would some of these jobs be considered "nontraditional" for men? For women? Should gender affect employers' decisions about whom to hire? Explain.

Imagine Your Future

What's your ideal career? If you don't have a clue, that's not unusual. But it's never too early to begin working toward a wonderful future. Try answering the questions below on a separate sheet of paper. Not only can they jump-start your thinking but they also can provide some great ideas about work that could both pay the rent and help make your life fulfilling. Remember: You can't go after what you want until you know what it is!

1. What are your interests? Or to put it another way, what do you like best about your life? Are you crazy about cars, computers, sports, art or children? If you love putting on plays, maybe you're a budding playwright, director or actor. If cooking is your favorite thing, maybe you're cut out to be a chef, cookbook writer or recipe tester. Write down at least five interests.

2. What did you want to be when you were a little kid? An astronaut? A police officer? What would you be in your wildest dreams? A professional hockey player? A movie producer? Don't forget about them just because they may seem crazy. Write them down. They could be valuable clues.

3. What are you like as a person? Do you have a great sense of humor? Are you outgoing? You might be a born teacher or salesperson. Are you sensitive and understanding? You might make a good psychologist, counselor or social worker. List at least five of your major traits.

4. Do you have any special skills? Maybe you can reprogram computers or take cars apart. Or you could be the person that your friends ask to cut their hair or do their make-up. Maybe you're the best babysitter around because you know how to make up stories that appeal to kids. It all counts! Write down at least five of your skills.

5. Do you have any work experience? Of course, this includes any after-school and summer jobs, but also consider experience volunteering, starting your own business, doing yard work for the neighbors, washing cars or directing the school play. Write it all down.

6. What did you like best/least about these work experiences?

7. What three achievements have made you the happiest? It can be anything. Maybe you won a writing contest. Maybe you were proud of coaxing your neighbor's cat out of a tree. Do these achievements have anything at all in common? There just might be a job to match them. Write down your achievements.

8. What do you think would be a good work environment? Do you go nuts if you don't spend a lot of time outside? Are you happiest being around a lot of people? Would you like to do a lot of traveling? Try to imagine what the ultimate work style and environment would be like. Then write it down.

9. What does it add up to? That's for you to decide. If you like writing, spending time around other people, and searching out facts, maybe you'll become a newspaper reporter. Try to find connections between your interests, your skills and your dreams. Can you think of any career fields that might match them?
