

Comments about the Youth Media Project: Student Town Meetings

“The student town meeting approach is an effective method for prompting student to select topics that interest them, for motivating them to conduct in-depth research, for giving them the courage to discuss complex issues and topics face-to-face with the experts, and for affording them the opportunity to express their thoughts on issues of local and national importance. The fact that thousands of others in a local and regional community can then hear what they think on the radio, sends the message to young people that they, as high school students preparing for college and work, can make a difference, and that others are interested in their point of view. This prepares young people as critical thinkers and leaders in a complex and challenging world.”

Richard P. Mills

Panelist

Commissioner of Education, NYS Education Department

Albany N.Y. - June 2004

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“...people, especially of political importance or higher political position, do not wish to listen to the younger citizens who do not yet have the right to vote. This is definitely a plus for WAMC, a place where youth can speak their mind without being muffled by the media ‘rules’. I would like to thank you for allowing us to visit your station. It was a great experience...I hope to come again for any other special events happening there.”

*12<sup>th</sup> Grade Participation in Government Student*

*Duanesburg Central High School*

*Delanson, N.Y.*

*October 2005*

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“What really sold me on the program was the fact that its objectives are a perfect fit with the required Participation in Government course. In fact, the Youth Media Project offers students exactly the type of experience they should be having as a part of this course. Students researched an important issue, discovered its relevance, formulated their own written position statements, and were able to participate in an exciting and meaningful culminating activity. Several students commented to me during the process that they were the ones who were educating their friends and relatives on this issue. Through the program, they actually took on the role of educating the wider community. It was a unique experience for the students of Duanesburg, which is a small, rural school...we had a few of the students speak at a school board meeting about the (Youth Media) project. Kelley explained the pro side (of the budget amendment), and Chad took the con side. The school board members asked them some really tough questions and they handled them well. It sparked an interesting discussion at the board meeting. Thanks again for all your assistance.”

Karen Kanarkiewicz

Participation in Government Teacher - Duanesburg Central High School

Delanson, N.Y. - October 2005

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“...I would like to express my support for the WAMC Town Meeting program. I think it is a great way for kids in our area to voice their options that may not otherwise be heard. It is also a great opportunity for kids to learn about different subjects that are important in our daily lives. Students must know the issue inside and out, as they will have to discuss it on the radio. I believe the WMAC Town meetings are very beneficial to Capital Region schools and communities and I hope they continue to be successful.”

*12<sup>th</sup> Grade Participation in Government Student - Duanesburg Central High School*









