

**Title of Session:** Social Studies Forum

**Moderator:** Michael Hutchison

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Room: After School Online Room

**MichaelH:** we're expecting a drop of about 30 degrees by tomorrow p.m.

**MonicaG:** From what I can gather from my friends in Australia, except for the snow their weather has been as cold as here, experiencing winter in the summer months

**ChantaratP:** Oh Michael, it is opposite, last week , we got the Tsunami situation, it is so terrible

**MichaelH:** Monica, I'm in southern Indiana... where are you in Illinois?

**MonicaG:** Peoria area

**MichaelH:** I have read much about that, Chantara... I am so sorry.

**MichaelH:** Monica, so you are not far from Springfield?

**MichaelH:** I have a reason I'm asking...

**MonicaG:** I think it's about 1 hour 1/2

**MichaelH:** Are you familiar with C-SPAN?

**ChantaratP:** so it can be the good topic of discussion related to social study forum, is it?

**MichaelH:** it sure can be...

**MonicaG:** Heard of it, but I'm currently visiting my folks having lived in Melbourne for 9 years

**MichaelH:** oh, reason why I asked, they have a wonderful contest going on right now for students in grades 6-12 on Abraham Lincoln and the Gettysburg Address

**MonicaG:** ah...

**MichaelH:** the link is at <http://www.c-span.org/classroom/lincolncontest/> if you or Chantara would like to take a look

**MichaelH:** Monica, the grand prize is a four day trip to Illinois for the winning student and his/her parent... with the final stop in Springfield for the opening of the Lincoln Museum

**DavidWe . o O ( free chocolate? )**

**MichaelH:** I dunno, David... but four days in Illinois would be a dream come true, wouldn't it?

**DavidWe:** Absolutely! Especially in Springfield

**MichaelH:** that museum is supposed to be really cool

**DavidWe** liked Peoria when he visited there

**MichaelH:** we went to Springfield about 11 years ago, but I haven't been back since

**MichaelH:** took the girls to the Lincoln Home, etc.

**MichaelH:** Chantarat, there is a great deal in central Illinois about Abraham Lincoln, who is considered one of the greatest, if not the greatest American leader

**MichaelH:** oh, check out <http://www.c-span.org/classroom/lincolncontest/>, David

**DavidWe** nods and checks

**DavidWe** was at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., on Memorial Day, 2004

**MichaelH:** The contest is very interesting... students must discuss the idea of a "new birth of freedom" in the 21st century, in 272 words or less...

**DavidWe:** That's cool - the 272 word limit

**MichaelH:** that's how many word Lincoln used in the Gettysburg Address...

**ChantaratP:** Michael , I can not continue what you r talking about, due to live so far from the USA, I am in Bangkok

**DavidWe:** Amazing how short the speech is. We really should memorize it.

**DavidWe:** Do you know about the American Civil War, Chantarat?

**MichaelH:** Chantarat, sorry I didn't explain it more... Abraham Lincoln was president of the United States in the middle1800s, during the Civil War in this country

**MichaelH:** He is revered by many as one of the greatest leaders this country ever had

**ChantaratP:** Yes, a little

**DavidWe** smiles

**MichaelH:** Chantarat, thousands of people go to see his home in Illinois, which is in the center of the United States, every year

**MichaelH:** his speech, the Gettysburg Address, is considered one of the greatest speeches ever made in world history

**MichaelH:** it is very, very short... you can read it at:  
<http://www.law.ou.edu/hist/getty.html>

**ChantaratP:** Oh , I just heard about it. In fact, social study, we always study about the history of country and some culture.

**MichaelH:** I see. In the United States, the Civil War was considered a major turning point in our history because it defined the idea that slavery

was wrong, and that black persons were considered as much citizens and equal as anyone else

**DavidWe:** It's amazing how emotional I find that speech. It always makes me shiver when I read it at the Lincoln Memorial

**MichaelH:** It has been very difficult to always obtain that goal, but we are trying

**MichaelH:** Hey, speaking of Civil Rights, I have another resource to share tonight...

**DavidWe** listens

**MichaelH:** Chantarat probably isn't familiar with him, but David, have you ever heard of Jack Johnson?

**DavidWe:** the boxer?

**MichaelH:** yes

**DavidWe** nods yes

**MichaelH:** "the Great White Hope"...

**DavidWe** smiles

**DavidWe** . o O ( James Earl Jones )

**MichaelH:** yes

**MichaelH:** Johnson will be the subject of a two part feature film which airs next week on PBS... called "Unforgivable Blackness: the Rise and Fall of Jack Johnson"

**DavidWe:** Interesting

**MichaelH:** it's at <http://www.pbs.org/unforgivableblackness>

**MichaelH:** it is a Ken Burns film

**DavidWe:** Oh, cool!

**DavidWe:** You and Ken are so close, now, Michael

**SusanR** joined the room.

**DavidWe** waves to Sue

**MichaelH:** Chantarat, Ken Burns is a well-known documentary filmmaker in this country... and is well-known for many movies, especially on Baseball, Jazz music, and the US Civil War

**MichaelH:** Hi, Sue!

**MichaelH:** do we have a little time to maybe look at a lesson or two?

**SusanR:** Hi Michael and David.

**MichaelH** is being forced to watch "Highway to Heaven" as he conducts the forum session this evening...

**MichaelH:** this would be a difficult film to introduce in the classroom, to be honest...

**MichaelH:** because of the history of Jack Johnson and his problems with the law

**MichaelH:** that would be hard to explain to a typical social studies class... I would say the students would have to be at least juniors in high school

**ChantaratP:** Thanks Michael for your word, listen your discussion is my favorite.

**MichaelH:** does anyone know about why Johnson was so controversial

**MichaelH:** Chantarat, I am glad you are enjoying the conversation

**MichaelH:** other than the fact that Johnson was an African-American who was a champion in a sport which was basically reserved for white fighters?

**ChantaratP:** In deed, Michael, it seems like site in the USA university lecture hall.

**MichaelH:** Chantarat, we try to be informal... we want everyone to feel welcome and comfortable in sessions here. I'm glad you are able to join us

**MichaelH:** the big problem with Johnson was he also had affairs with white women, and that enraged many.

**MichaelH:** Even the federal government tried to prosecute him (and succeeded ) on various morals charges

**ChantaratP:** Previously, I listen some one mention about the human right, this terms is more obviously in Thailand, and somewhere particularly in Asia, is it right.

**MichaelH:** the lessons don't deal with that, but we couldn't avoid talking about controversy with sports figures

**MichaelH:** Chantarat, in the United States, we unfortunately have a habit of saying we are for human rights in theory, but it is sometimes very difficult for us to put that into practice. David, BJ, Sue, and I can easily point to many instances where groups have been denied equal rights because of their gender, sexual preference, color, and so on

**DavidWe** just gave a printout of the Gettysburg Address to a 6th grader who now knows about the C-Span contest - thanks, Michael.

**MichaelH:** Hey, David, the contest is very, very cool... is the sixth grader interested?

**MichaelH:** He/she can also enter online

**DavidWe:** Well, he has a copy of the Gettysburg address and he knows about the contest at c-span's web site

**DavidWe:** He is in 6th grade

**DavidWe** . o O ( we'll see )

**DavidWe** grins

**MichaelH:** well, he can enter the contest... I'll be posting the announcement to various listservs either tonight or tomorrow.

**DavidWe:** Cool

**MichaelH:** I would love to be there for the opening ceremonies for the museum... unfortunately for me, "all expenses paid" to the library wouldn't be much more than a tank of gas...

**MichaelH:** and maybe a 20 oz. bottle of Diet Pepsi to drink on the way

**MichaelH:** let me share a couple of the lessons before time slips away...

**MichaelH:** before I go any farther, all the lessons are at <http://www.pbs.org/unforgivableblackness/teachers/lessonplans.html>

**MichaelH:** However, in a shameless exhibit of self-promotion, I'll show you the two they included that I did

**DavidWe:** oh, cool

**MichaelH:** This is one where students compare the social, political, and athletic impact of three sports heroes of the 20th century

**DavidWe** . o O ( It's that "shameless exhibit of self-promotion" that made him NECC teacher of the year )

**ChantaratP:** Sorry Michael for disturb your discussion, I hope you would get well for your arrangement on this regard

**MichaelH:** thank you, Chantarat...

**MichaelH:** the three are Jack Johnson, Joe Louis, and Muhammad Ali

**MichaelH:** here's the lesson

**MichaelH:**

[http://www.pbs.org/unforgivableblackness/teachers/lesson\\_johnsonlouisali.html](http://www.pbs.org/unforgivableblackness/teachers/lesson_johnsonlouisali.html)

**MichaelH:** Chantarat, I don't know how easy this will be to relate to you, but in the United States, sometimes people who are famous for other reasons, sports, movies, or whatever, crossover into politics or social causes, and they are controversial. Many do not like them for that.

**MichaelH:** Joe Louis was a black fighter who fought against a German boxer in the World War 2 era... when Hitler believed whites were supreme over other races

**MichaelH:** Muhammad Ali gave up the heavyweight boxing title because he believed the Vietnam War was morally wrong, and he refused to go into the Army during the 1960s

**MichaelH:** David, you might tell your favorite sixth grader that there are cash prizes, also in the contest....

**MichaelH:** here's the other lesson that you might enjoy...

**MichaelH:** this one talks about how the media treated Jack Johnson...

**MichaelH:** students have to develop period "sports pages" featuring stories about the career of Johnson

**MichaelH:**

[http://www.pbs.org/unforgivableblackness/teachers/lesson\\_press.html](http://www.pbs.org/unforgivableblackness/teachers/lesson_press.html)

**MichaelH:** I should take a moment here... does anyone have any questions or comments about the film or the lessons?

**MichaelH** . o O ( we're getting close to the end of the session... )

**MichaelH:** Chantarat, is there anything we can help you with or show you before we close for tonight?

**MichaelH:** well, I think I will say goodbye for now...

**MichaelH** waves goodnight

**DavidWe**: Thanks Michael. Great session

**ChantaratP**: No, thanks Michael ,and thanks every one for giving me the lesson online,

**DavidWe** waves bye to Michael

**SusanR**: Thank you, Michael! I will check the PBS TV schedule here in Canada

**MichaelH**: thanks... Sue, don't forget that all PBS stations set their own schedule, so you'll want to look at your local station's listing.

**MichaelH**: Chantarat, it was a pleasure to have you with us this evening. Please feel free to come back again