TEACHING WITH CLASSROOM INSTRUCTIONAL TELEVISION

KLCS-TV encourages teachers to tape CITV programs off-the-air prior to viewing by students. This enables teachers to preview the program, align it with learning standards, and incorporate it into lesson planning. It also allows more flexibility so that teachers may pause the tape to check for student understanding. See page 19 for information on taping rights.

A television set can be a window to worlds that students may never have the opportunity to visit. A television program can spotlight a foreign culture, a moment in history, a science concept, a person’s life. Howard Gardner, Educational Psychologist, recognizes visual experience as the most common learning style; video is a natural educator. Like other educational resources, video should be used wisely and efficiently, maximizing its instructional impact. In the hands of a good teacher, the VCR, monitor, and remote control empower student learning, unhampered by cognitive skill levels, age, gender, and even language proficiency.

Here are some tips for making the most of television in the classroom:

* Use programs on videotape for flexibility and control. Learn how your VCR works, especially how to use the timer for recording off-the-air.

* Preview programs as much as possible to determine suitability for meeting lesson objectives and learning outcomes.

* Select a segment or two which are most relevant to the lesson content. Don’t feel obligated to show a program from beginning to end.

* Conduct a pre-viewing activity which establishes the reason for viewing, review vocabulary, and direct students toward meeting the desired learning outcomes.

* Set a focus for viewing, prompting students to notice certain content in the program segment.

* Make the viewing interactive by choosing program segments which relate to the experience of learning in the classroom. Whenever possible, connect the video content to a “hands-on” activity.

* Use the remote control or VCR controls to maintain active viewing. PAUSE to ask a question or invite prediction, re-engaging student attention. STOP when the concept you are targeting has been presented. REWIND the tape to play the video again for reinforcement of learning. Try to weave the video through the lesson.

* Be creative! Use the video without sound to encourage students to provide their own narrative. Use closed-captioning to reinforce reading skills, or to enhance language acquisition for ESL students.

* Build on the television experience through post-viewing extension activities. Explore related websites. Research a controversial issue. Produce a class video companion to the television program which localizes the content to the community.

* Use the supplemental teaching aides, such as slides, posters, and other reproductions to focus on individual artists’ work featured in the television/video segments.