

## Excerpts from Reviews SCANNING TELEVISION Second Edition

### Review by Chris M. Worsnop in International Telemedia

*Chris M. Worsnop is a media education writer and freelance consultant.*

*“guaranteed winners with your students... plenty of meat for a teacher and class to chew on in their media explorations ”*

A team of very experienced media educators - including the major authors of the project, Pungente, Kathleen Tyner and Neil Andersen - has chosen the 51 video selections. You can be sure that they have picked plenty of selections that will be guaranteed winners with your students. Profits go to the JCP, which uses them to promote media education courses and projects across Canada.

There is always plenty of meat for a teacher and class to chew on in their media explorations. Don't be looking for ready-made answers, though. These resources assume that teachers want to stimulate thinking and learning, rather than to inculcate ready-formed conclusions.

Furthermore, Face to Face Media, unlike the major text publishers, does not fight shy of presenting challenging or even controversial material. Topics that others might timidly avoid - political or ideological topics, for instance, such as racism or teen suicide - are not eschewed here.

What do teachers want in a study guide? They want stimulating ideas to feed their own imagination in planning their own lessons. They want background information beyond what is included in the primary text, and they want to be guided to further resources. Occasionally, they want something already formed - a worksheet, for instance - as a time saver. If you see yourself in this description, you are not going to be disappointed by this 96-page Guide. It will offer you more potential approaches to each segment in the video collection than you will ever be able to cover in class. And each one is meticulously backgrounded and backed up with suggestions and questions for classroom activity. Some model lesson plans are included, too.

### Review by David Considine

*David Considine coordinates the Media Studies Program in the Reich College of Education at North Carolina's Appalachian State University. He was the 2003 Chair of the National Media Literacy Education Conference*

*“ challenges teachers and students to watch carefully and think critically”*

I seldom claim that any single product is indispensable for a media literacy collection, but a strong challenge to my reservation and cautions has been mounted by the team of Kathleen Tyner, John Pungente, and Neil Andersen.

Available on DVD or VHS, this educationally engaging resource is interdisciplinary by design which means it can readily be integrated into key areas of the curriculum, particularly in English, Language Arts and Social Studies - where it can be utilized in broad themes or small time-saving segments.

For the most part the programs and the clips they contain tend to focus on the 9th grade and higher. The themes tackled concentrate on the role of the media in shaping the way we see ourselves and the world beyond our immediate experience.

Whether dealing with the impact of the Internet, media convergence and consolidation, global relations, or media ethics, Scanning TV 2 challenges teachers and students to "watch carefully and think critically."

I particularly like the teacher's guide and the way that it clearly locates the clips and the themes within key concepts of media literacy including audiences, texts and production. This will be welcome by teachers with a strong background in media literacy but also by those who are just starting to grapple with the difference between simply teaching WITH media, compared to teaching ABOUT media.

Finally, the teacher's guide includes suggestions about evaluation and assessment with specific reference to viewing, writing, listening, speaking, researching, and of course critical thinking. That's important not just for classroom teachers, but for administrators who need to see how media literacy contributes to student achievement.