

As a person raised in the television generation, I know powerful effects that television can have.

Because of this, I believe it's important to create the following guidelines for digital broadcasters:

1) Accountability. Whatever the mandatory minimums, stations should report quarterly to the public on their public interest efforts, especially about efforts to create a more diverse television. Stations should report about their efforts to create more diverse programming and to hire staff who represent underserved communities.

2) Public Service Announcements. A minimum commitment to public service announcements should be required of digital television broadcasters, with at least equal emphasis placed on locally produced PSAs addressing a community's local needs. PSAs should run in all day parts including in primetime and at other times of peak viewing.

3) Public Affairs Programming. A minimum commitment to public affairs programming should be required of digital television broadcasters again with some emphasis on local issues and needs. Such programming should air in visible time periods during the day and evening. Public affairs programming can occur within or outside regularly scheduled newscasts, but is not defined as coverage of news itself.

4) Closed Captioning. A digital broadcast station should provide closed captioning of PSAs, public affairs programming, emergency announcements and political programming. Captioning in these areas should be phased in over the first 4 years of a station's digital broadcasts, where doing so would not impose an undue burden, but should be completed no later than the FCC-imposed deadline of 2006 for captioning most programming