

## **Chapter Summary –Module Eight**

Since its introduction at the 1939 World's Fair, television has been a controversial factor in American life. Critics have disagreed; some arguing that television provides an opening of the world to children and adults alike, while others lament the "vast wasteland" of television programming. Changing technology has always been a part of television. Snowy, black-and-white sets gave way to color, transistor technology made television more portable, improved sound systems made music viable television content, and high definition television is once again revolutionizing the industry. Competition is fierce, and new delivery systems, such as cable, satellite systems, DVD's, Hulu and YouTube have encroached on the power of the traditional broadcast networks. Through all the changes, television remains a powerful force in American social and political life.