

Seeing Is Believing...

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With the lure of Internet video everyone should be familiar with YouTube by now. But if not, it recently became an even hotter topic when it caused new issues of privacy to be raised. After the inauguration, the Change.gov website became the [White House Website](#) and made the news with its questionable use of [YouTube imbedded videos](#). The State Department has also announced another new video outlet at its site [America.gov](#), which is telling our Nation's stories to the rest of the world in several languages. And AOL reports that even our lawmakers now have their own sites, which can be found on both <http://youtube.com/househub> and at <http://youtube.com/senatehub>, making it easier for citizens to interact with their elected officials. But if you haven't heard anything about the TED Lectures yet, then you are still in for a huge treat. Artists, experts, entertainers and other bright people you've never heard of will hypnotize you and inspire you, enthrall you and enchant you. [They are offering something for just about everyone.](#)



TED - which stands for Technology, Entertainment, Design - is an annual conference that began bringing people

together from any and all disciplines over 25 years ago. Each year, the world's most fascinating thinkers and doers are challenged to give the talk of their lives within 18 minutes. The best of these performances are now available to the public for free. More than 300 of these 'ideas worth spreading' have been made available from the archives on their website and more are being added each week. These videos can either be watched or downloaded as podcasts to be watch later, shared freely or even reposted. Truly they are quite a remarkable collection. For instance, Sherwin Nuland, an American surgeon from Yale, [speaks to the meaning of hope and love of healing](#); Franco Sacchi, an Italian filmmaker, describes the home-grown [Nollywood](#), the 3rd largest film industry in the world; Martin Seligman cleverly discusses the [positive state of psychology](#); Peter Hirshberg tells us [how the computer ambushed television](#) after 60 years and Carmen Agra Deedy, a story teller, delightfully [describes her incredible Mom for us](#). One could simply go on forever with great examples.

The first story that truly seduced me was brain researcher [Jill Bolte Taylor's description of her personal 'stroke of insight'](#) and from then on I was hooked. With the Internet, you no longer have to settle for the babble of the traditional networks or the trash of reality cable. As Washington leads the way, you will continue to find that there is more and more useful information that is being made available to you. One speaker warned that 'the world will not be saved by the Internet' but then another in a subsequent session noted 'that the world will be saved by the human spirit' and that's seems to be something that we've witnessed a lot of that's been on display recently. Enjoy more...