



C-SPAN's 2012 StudentCam Challenges Students to Compete in National Documentary Contest

This Year's Theme: The U.S. Constitution

Deadline is Jan. 20 for Eighth Annual Video Competition

***** \$50,000 in prizes to be awarded *****

WASHINGTON, DC (September 8, 2011) -- C-SPAN is asking students to bring the U.S. Constitution to life by competing in a video documentary competition.

The public affairs network today announces its call for entries in the **2012 StudentCam**. Now in its eighth year, C-SPAN's national competition invites all middle school students (grades 6-8) and high school students (grades 9-12) to produce a five- to eight- minute video documentary using C-SPAN programming.

This year, students will have the opportunity to produce a documentary focusing on "**The Constitution and You**: Select any provision of the U.S. Constitution and create a video illustrating why it's important to you."

The C-SPAN Education Foundation supports the contest through **\$50,000** in cash prizes for 75 student awards. The Grand Prize winner with the best overall entry will be awarded \$5,000, with multiple cash prize awards of \$250, \$500, \$750, \$1,500, and \$3,000 to students in both middle and high school categories. Teachers are also eligible to compete for cash prizes.

"StudentCam gives young people the chance to share their opinions with C-SPAN's national viewing audience," says C-SPAN Vice President of Education Joanne Wheeler. "The Constitution is always timely, even more so in this political year, which is why we're asking students to critically examine the document that forms the foundation of American government."

Competition Guidelines

Entries must represent varying points of view, and include C-SPAN video that supports the documentary's topic. Students, working alone or in groups up to three, can upload their entry form and videos directly online at www.studentcam.org. Documentaries must be the original work of students; however teachers may provide guidance and critiques.

The documentaries will be judged by a panel of C-SPAN representatives and educators, and evaluated on a number of criteria, including the thoughtful examination of the competition's theme, quality of expression, adherence to the time limit, inclusion of varying points of view, and use of C-SPAN programming.

The deadline for entries is Friday, January 20, 2012. Winners will be announced in March 2012, with the top 27 winning videos to air on C-SPAN in April 2012. Complete competition details and the entry form are available at the competition's website, www.studentcam.org. In addition to cash prizes, past winners have had their documentaries recognized by the White House.

About C-SPAN Classroom

StudentCam ([twitter.com/@StudentCam](https://twitter.com/StudentCam)) is sponsored by C-SPAN Classroom, www.c-spanclassroom.org (www.twitter.com/cspan_classroom), a free membership service dedicated to support educators' use of C-SPAN programming in their classes or for research. Members of C-SPAN Classroom may access free Timely Teachable Videos and video clips for use in the classroom, as well as lesson plans, handouts and ways to connect with other C-SPAN Classroom members. C-SPAN Classroom has reached more than one million students since its inception in 1987.

About C-SPAN

Created by the cable TV industry and now in over 100 million TV households, C-SPAN programs three public affairs television networks in both SD and HD; C-SPAN Radio, heard in Washington DC and nationwide via XM Satellite Radio; and a video-rich website which hosts the C-SPAN Video Library. Visit <http://www.c-span.org/>.

Contacts:

Pam McGorry

202-626-4861

pmcgorry@c-span.org

Howard Mortman

202-626-6527

HMortman@c-span.org