



C-SPAN Challenges Students to Compete in National Documentary Competition

This Year's Theme: A Message to the U.S. Congress

***** \$100,000 in cash prizes to be awarded *****

WASHINGTON, DC (September 10, 2013) -- C-SPAN is asking students to consider what's the most important issue the U.S. Congress should address in 2014 and create a video documentary explaining why it is important.

The public affairs network is calling for entries in its 2014 StudentCam competition. Now in its tenth 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 seven- minute video documentary using C-SPAN programming on this year's theme: "A Message to the U.S. Congress: What's the most important issue the U.S. Congress should consider in 2014?"

This year C-SPAN has doubled the number of student prizes and total prize money that is being awarded. The C-SPAN Education Foundation supports the competition by awarding 150 student prizes and 53 teacher prizes. In all, a total of \$100,000 in cash prizes will be awarded. The Grand Prize winner with the best overall entry will win \$5,000, in addition to multiple prizes of \$3,000, \$1,500, \$750, \$500, and \$250 being awarded to students in both the middle and high school categories.

Additionally, this year high school students will be competing on a regional level with the U.S. being divided into three regions. Middle school students will continue to be judged on a national basis. The Grand Prize winner will be selected nationally among all middle and high school entries. Details regarding the breakdown of regions and rules can be found at www.studentcam.org.

"StudentCam provides a platform for young people to analyze current issues, and for their voices to be heard. The competition offers students the opportunity to think critically about issues they feel are important for the U.S. Congress to consider," says C-SPAN Vice President of Education Relations, Joanne Wheeler. "Last year we received a record number of entries, so this year we are delighted to announce that we have doubled the number of student prizes and total prize money that will be awarded."

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 video 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 Monday, January 20, 2014. Winners will be announced in March 2014, with the top winning videos to air on C-SPAN in April 2014. Complete competition details and the entry form are available on C-SPAN's StudentCam website, www.studentcam.org.

About C-SPAN Classroom

StudentCam (twitter.com/@StudentCam) is sponsored by C-SPAN Classroom, www.c-spanclassroom.org ([www.twitter.com/cspan_classroom](https://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 100 million TV households, C-SPAN programs three public affairs television networks in both SD and HD; C-SPAN Radio, heard in Washington, DC, at 90.1 FM, nationwide via XM Satellite Radio Channel 119, and via the C-SPAN Radio app for iPhone, Android, and Blackberry users; and a video-rich website which hosts the C-SPAN Video Library. Visit <http://www.c-span.org> or follow us on [Facebook](#) and on Twitter [@cspan](#).

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