



Students and the U.S. Constitution

C-SPAN Video Documentary Competition Sparks Record Number of *StudentCam* Entries

... Winners Announced March 7...

(WASHINGTON, D.C. , February 14, 2012) – Issues surrounding the First and Second Amendments lead the list of issues chosen by young documentarians participating in C-SPAN’s eighth annual national *StudentCam* video competition.

With the theme, “*The Constitution and You: Select any provision of the U.S. Constitution and create a video illustrating why it’s important to you,*” this year’s *StudentCam* contest garnered a record 1,203 entries.

C-SPAN’s national competition invites middle school (grades 6-8) and high school (grades 9-12) students to produce a five- to eight-minute documentary. A national grand prize winner in the contest, who will receive \$5,000 in prize money, is to be announced by the public affairs network on March 7th at www.c-span.org/studentcam. In all, 75 winning entries will be awarded various cash prizes totaling \$50,000.

The top five topics chosen for discussion this year are:

- First Amendment (all provisions) – 326 entries
 - 142 covered all provisions of the Amendment in general
 - 72 covered freedom of speech
 - 54 covered freedom of religion
 - 37 covered freedom of assembly
 - 18 covered freedom of the press
 - 3 covered freedom of petition
- The right to bear arms (Second Amendment) – 127 entries
- Equal protection (Fourteenth Amendment)- 85 entries
- Voting rights for women (Nineteenth Amendment) – 52 entries
- The structure and powers of Congress (Article 1) – 51 entries

Interest in the 26th Amendment, giving 18 year olds the right to vote, followed as the sixth most popular topic covered with 44 videos on the subject.

The 2012 competition also saw the highest number of participating states, 43, plus DC, and Puerto Rico. States with the most entries are:

- Florida - 113
- California - 90
- Michigan- 63
- Pennsylvania - 62
- Virginia -55

“C-SPAN’s *StudentCam* continues to be a snapshot of what young people consider important,” says Joanne Wheeler, C-SPAN Vice President of Education Relations. “In yet another record-breaking year for entries, students across the country continue to demonstrate just how much their voices count, especially when it comes to the foundation of our government, the Constitution.”

Since the competition began in 2004, *StudentCam* has evolved with advancements in video technology over the years. Wheeler noted these changes since the competition was launched:

- C-SPAN’s 180,000 hours of archival footage via the online Video Library make it easier for students to incorporate C-SPAN in their documentaries.
- The earliest submissions were on VHS tapes (Wheeler remembers giant mail bags of tapes being delivered.) Now submissions are online, making it easier for students to participate and judges to review.
- Today’s students have near universal access to small video cameras and editing software, contributing to an overall increase in the number of entries.

StudentCam videos are judged by a panel of C-SPAN representatives and education professionals.

Winning entries demonstrate thoughtful examination of the contest theme, quality of expression, and use of C-SPAN programming.

The annual competition is a project of the C-SPAN Education Foundation and is sponsored by C-SPAN Classroom, in partnership with C-SPAN’s cable television affiliates. Begun in 1987, C-SPAN Classroom is a free membership service dedicated to supporting educators’ use of C-SPAN programming and websites in their classes or for research. Members of C-SPAN Classroom may access video clips for use in the classroom, lesson plans, handouts and ways to connect with other C-SPAN Classroom teachers. For more information on C-SPAN Classroom visit the website: <http://www.c-spanclassroom.org/> or follow on twitter: @CSPAN_Classroom.

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/>.