



## What do U.S. Students Care about Most?

“Education” tops the list of topics in C-SPAN’s 2011 Video Documentary Competition, followed by “the economy”

*“Education” up from third last year among student filmmakers*

National Winner Announced March 9

**(WASHINGTON, D.C. - Feb. 23, 2011)** – Education tops the list of issues chosen for examination by young documentarians participating in C-SPAN’s StudentCam 2011 video competition, up from third place last year.

And, at a time when youth unemployment is 25%, “economy and jobs” ranked second among student video topics, the same spot it held in last year’s StudentCam competition.

“C-SPAN’s StudentCam is a window on the issues that affect young people, who use video to demonstrate what matters to them,” says Joanne Wheeler, C-SPAN Vice President of Education Relations.

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, with this year’s topic focusing on “Washington, DC, through my lens.” A national winner in the contest, who will receive \$5,000 in prize money, is to be announced by the public affairs network on March 9<sup>th</sup>.

Of the record-setting 1,069 videos received from over 40 states and DC, the top five topics chosen for explanation this year are:

1. Education
2. Economy
3. Immigration
4. Health care
5. Environment

Rounding out the top 15 issues for 2011: bipartisanship, technology, GLBT rights, national security, Constitutional rights, drugs, nutrition & exercise, homelessness, and bullying.

In the 2010 StudentCam competition, students were asked to create a video that illustrated the country's greatest strengths or weaknesses. The top five video topics were:

1. Health care
2. Economy
3. Education
4. Military
5. Poverty

The 75 winners will be announced March 9th at [www.c-span.org/studentcam](http://www.c-span.org/studentcam). Winners will receive a total of \$50,000 in cash awards, including a Grand Prize winner, plus two 1st Prize winners; eight 2nd Prize winners; 16 3rd Prize winners; and 48 Honorable Mentions in middle and high school categories.

The videos are being judged by a panel of C-SPAN representatives and education professionals. They are evaluated based on the thoughtful examination of the contest theme, quality of expression, adherence to the time limit, 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 ([www.c-spanclassroom.org](http://www.c-spanclassroom.org)).

**About C-SPAN Classroom:**

C-SPAN Classroom, [www.c-spanclassroom.org](http://www.c-spanclassroom.org), is a free membership service dedicated to support educators' use of C-SPAN programming in their classrooms. 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/>.

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