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C-SPAN ANNOUNCES THE 2009 STUDENTCAM DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION

*Contest Theme: Asks Students to Submit a Message to the New President:
"What is the most urgent issue for the new president to address and why?"*

A Total of \$50,000 Awarded in Prizes

WASHINGTON (October 3, 2008) - C-SPAN announced today the launch of its **2009 StudentCam video documentary competition**. A total of \$50,000 will be awarded in prizes, which includes 75 student awards and 11 teacher awards.

The national competition, now in its fifth year, invites **all middle school students (grades 6-8) and high school students (grades 9-12)** to produce a five to eight minute documentary focusing on the topic: **"A message to the new president: What is the most urgent issue for the new president to address after taking office, and why?"**

Entries must represent more than one point of view, and include C-SPAN video. Students can upload their entry forms and videos online at www.studentcam.org.

"With so many young people excited about this year's historic election, we want today's students - and tomorrow's leaders -- to express their views to the new president," said Joanne Wheeler, C-SPAN vice president of education relations. "We're delighted to sponsor this annual competition and invite students in grades 6 through 12 to address important issues that affect our nation and their communities. And, we'll share their voices with our national viewing audience."

The deadline for entries is 5:00 pm (ET), Inauguration Day, Tuesday, January 20, 2009. Winners will be announced on March 10, 2009. 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.

Last year, Scott Mitchell, and Nick Poss of Jenks, OK won Grand Prize for their video "Leaving Religion At The Door."

This year, the competition is also open to international students, and one \$500 prize will be offered for the best international entry. Videos must be the original work of students, however, teachers may provide guidance and critiques.

Complete contest details and an entry form are available at the competition's web site, www.studentcam.org.

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 contest theme, quality of expression, adherence to the time limit, inclusion of more than one point of view, and use of C-SPAN programming.

StudentCam is sponsored by C-SPAN Classroom, www.c-spanclassroom.org, a free membership service dedicated to support educators' use of C-SPAN programming in their classes or for research.

About C-SPAN

C-SPAN, the political network of record, was created by America's cable companies as a public service in 1979. C-SPAN programs three public affairs television networks; C-SPAN Radio, a Washington, D.C. radio station, distributed nationally by XM Satellite Radio; and a video-rich website, c-span.org. C-SPAN is currently available in nearly 92.3 million cable and satellite households. For more information about C-SPAN, visit: www.c-span.org.