

C-SPAN Student Cam Project

For this project, you will create a 5- 8 minute video on the following topic:

The Constitution and You:

Select any provision of the U.S. Constitution and create a video illustrating why it's important to you.

Guidelines

- Your video should be at least 5-8 minutes.
- You must include a narration of the key ideas
- You must use at least one clip from C-SPAN
- Photographs, videos, and interviews filmed by you should be included.
- Music can be included
- Be sure to cite your sources
- One or more students should narrate on camera

STEP ONE: Research (One Day)

Find all the information--facts and opinions--you can on this issue. Be sure to keep track of your sources for a bibliography.

Question to Consider?

"What or who can I show, with the camera that will communicate this information to the audience?" Identify **several** positions on this issue.

STEP TWO: Video Clips from C-SPAN (two days)

Find between 1-4 video clips to use in your presentation.

Be sure to keep track of your sources for a bibliography.

STEP THREE: Create Outline

DUE _____ (10 points)

Before production, create a script outline, including storyboards illustrating specific shots. It should include: locations to explore, people to be interviewed, events to capture, situations to show, documents or still photos to include, artwork, quotations, C-SPAN video clips to insert.

**Be sure any copyrighted material is used under "fair" use guidelines.

Your video should:

1. Give the facts/ background on the issue.
2. Present at least two points of view. Remember-- your video should not favor one side or the other. As a reporter you should attempt to remain neutral.
3. Include music, relevant photographs and at least one C-SPAN clip.

4. Include sources and credits.
5. If you are going to videotape, be sure what you are videotaping is relevant.

STEP FOUR: Record your interviews

There are no requirements for who should be interviewed. Students can use their classmates, teachers and family as interview subjects. However, we encourage entrants to consider interviewing experts on their chosen topic as well as local and national political leaders. You may be surprised by who is willing to sit down for an interview!

Shooting video. There are some basic rules to follow when shooting your video footage. Consider lighting, framing, positioning, camera steadiness, speed of camera movement, sound, how many seconds you hold a shot, etc. A note about interviewing--think carefully about the questions and answers, the preparation, position, location and appearance of the interviewee. Careful planning can lead to better video footage for your final product.

STEP FIVE

Find 25-30 photographs you will be able to use in your video. Be sure to save them as JPEG's. Be sure to keep track of your sources for a bibliography.

Editing. Editing is a critical phase of creating your video. Think of the editing process as similar to the writing process, and your video footage as the words you will use to tell your story. Let the story "tell itself" through the video. In what order will you arrange the story? How will it end? What two pieces work well together? What piece should be left out? You may want to look at all of your content then write out an "editing script" to lay out your scenes. You could also use storyboards to arrange your shots.

You may also realize you are missing some scenes and have to shoot more video. This is OK. Write any narration or voice-over you may need from your editing script. Will you include music?

STEP SIX

Show your video to someone else.

Is it clear?

Do you show both sides of the story?

Are there any spelling errors?