

A Healthy Discussion

Scenario:

In Congress, a number of comprehensive reform proposals have been announced as the debate proceeds over how to overhaul the health care system. Many interest groups have powerful lobbyists to advocate their positions on these issues. However, California's Senators Boxer and Feinstein recognize the young adults of our country are an interest group without a voice, even though they will be most affected in the future by decisions being made now. They have asked high school students around the state to make multimedia presentations presenting their positions on health care reform with particular interest in the needs of people in the 18-25 year old sector. Your team is representing young adults in the San Joaquin Valley area. It is important, as you present to the senators, that you demonstrate an understanding of both health care issues as well as the political issues involved in passing a bill of this magnitude.

Possible topics to cover (these are only suggestions and are not a requirement for a superior presentation):

1. What is the history behind the federal government trying to create a national universal health care program?
2. How are people in the 18-25 age range currently getting insurance?
3. How many in the 18-25 are uninsured, and is the number higher in our valley?
4. Describe current health care benefits for people that cannot afford insurance.
5. What are factors in our current political climate that make it difficult to pass health care legislation?
6. How does our nation's health compare to other developed nations?
7. How much does it cost 18-25 year olds to be insured?
8. How are students at your school responding to the health care issue?
9. How does the cost of our health care compare to other developed nations?
10. What effect do these economic times have on health insurance coverage?
11. Compare our health care coverage to a country that has universal health care.
12. What fears have surfaced regarding the health care bills that are being drafted?
13. How do special interest groups influence legislation?
14. What would be the impact of passing a health care reform bill that includes government run insurance?

Possible Sources

Newspapers, historians, teachers, legislative analysts, videos, CD's, encyclopedias, history textbooks and Internet websites.

Email or interview legislators with questions about the topic.

Internet links for additional resources are on page 2 of this scenario.

Bibliography

Be sure to have a printed bibliography to hand to the judges before you begin your presentation. You are encouraged to cite all of your sources including graphics. A simple web tool to organize your bibliography can be found at <http://citationmachine.net/>.

2009 CyberQuest High School Resources

The Kaiser Family Foundation: <http://www.kff.org/healthreform/sidebyside.cfm>
Side-by-Side Comparison of Major Health Care Reform Proposals

The White House, The President's Plan: http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/health_care/

The Wall Street Journal: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB124277551107536875.html>
Republican alternatives to the President's plan

Rocky Mount Telegram: <http://www.rockymounttelegram.com/news/health-care-executives-sound-off-on-reform-efforts-896730.html>

Four health care executives voice their positions

American Medical Association: <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/health-system-reform/index.shtml>

AMA's vision for health system reform

A History of Health Care Reform

http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2009/07/19/us/politics/20090717_HEALTH_TIMELINE.html

Constitutional Topic: How a Bill Becomes a Law

http://www.usconstitution.net/consttop_law.html

Lobbyist and Lobbying

<http://www.meyersandassociates.com/lobbyist.html>

Health-Care Lobbyists

http://voices.washingtonpost.com/health-care-reform/2009/10/health-care_lobbyists_continue.html

Young Adults Likely to Pay Big Share of Reform's Cost

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/09/15/AR2009091503716.html>