



News Release

Washington Coalition for Open Government

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The Washington Coalition for Open Government is extending the deadline for the
**2016 Scott Johnson Open Government High School Essay Contest to
April 30th.**

“Police body cams, dash cams, and a camera on every street corner: An Invasion of Privacy or a Needed Step Toward Accountability and Safety?”

The Washington Coalition for Open Government is seeking your help in encouraging high school students around the state to enter the 2016 Scott Johnson Open Government High School Essay Contest. ***“Police body cams, dash cams, and a camera on every street corner: An Invasion of Privacy or a Needed Step Toward Accountability and Safety?”*** is this year’s topic and we are confident it will lead to lively discussions in and out of classrooms and generate great enthusiasm among your students.

We hope you will encourage interested students to explore all the timely issues surrounding this topic including impacts on privacy and the public’s right to information.

The deadline for submissions is April 30th. Judging will be conducted in May with the winner announced later in May. The contest is open to all high school students in Washington State, and the winner will receive **\$1,000**. The essay contest is named for the late Scott Johnson, an attorney with the Stokes Lawrence law firm and a very dedicated and talented WCOG Board member. We gratefully acknowledge the generosity of Stokes Lawrence in sponsoring this significant contest.

This year, WCOG is expanding the call for submissions **to include all high school grades, nine through twelve**. A copy of the Contest Rules and instructions for submissions are available at www.washingtoncog.org. Please help us get the word out to those teachers who may have interested students. WCOG is a non-profit, non-partisan coalition of attorneys, media professionals, citizen activists, and public officials who work to ensure openness and transparency at all levels of government in Washington State.