

**Channel One News**  
**March 30, 2011**

**DISCUSSION GUIDE**

**Generation Money: Debt Cap**

- Why is the U.S. in debt?
- How great is our per capita debt?
- When and why did Congress establish a debt ceiling?
- Why has Congress raised the ceiling 10 times since 2001?
- Why is our national debt causing stress for some young people?
- Why does the U.S. have a strong credit rating?
- Who holds most of our debt?
- What are some of the major ticket items within this year's proposed federal budget?
- What are entitlement programs?
- What were some of the recommendations of the President's bipartisan commission on the debt?

**DAILY QUIZ**  
**March 30, 2011**

1. **True** or False                      Our national debt is around \$14.225 trillion or about \$50,000 per capita.
2. True or **False**                      The national debt is a recent issue for the country. It began in 1917 when Congress established a debt ceiling.
3. **True** or False                      Around 60 percent of the proposed 2011 federal budget is allocated to a combination of military spending, health care and social security.

**WRITING ASSIGNMENT**

Should Congress continue to raise our debt ceiling?

**VOCABULARY**

1. Default                      (v)                      failing to satisfy a financial claim
2. Entitlement Programs      (n)                      programs that guarantee benefits under a governmental program