

Brennan students offer new perspectives in video series



Brennan student Tabitha Siender is shown here in her report on the impact of communications technology on human interaction.

Cell phones and other devices can be a huge distraction for teenagers these days and that may only increase as modern communications technology becomes more ubiquitous in their lives, but just how much of a nuisance it will be depends entirely on the people who use it.

That's just one of the conclusions from a series of special video reports produced by the students in Stephen Kristof's senior media communications class at F.J. Brennan Catholic High School.

"We all know that society will continue to advance and grow with new technology every single day, and it's really all up to how you use it," says student reporter Tabitha Siender as she wraps up a piece called *Technology's Impact on Human Interaction*.

The report is just one of a series of video pieces that make up an ongoing feature series called *F.J. Brennan Student Perspective*. Besides the pervasiveness of technology, the segments – which vary in length from five to seven minutes – cover such subjects choosing career paths, healthy lifestyles, the city's new aquatic centre and Windsor's current job market. Brennan

student correspondents interview their peers, as well as a knowledgeable authority who can speak with insight about the topic.

Besides being uploaded to the class's own Youtube site, the episodes have also been broadcast on TV Cogeco's community channel and will continue to run periodically throughout the summer.

Kristof, who is the lead teacher for Brennan's Arts & Culture Specialist High Skills Major program, said he's very impressed with the quality of this year's episodes.

"We've been producing these news items for several years and this is one of the best series yet," he said. "Everything is done in-house. We use our own cameras, lighting, sound and editing equipment, and students grow tremendously through the experience. In the end, the reports look like anything you might see on professional television, but with a far younger team doing on and off-camera production. And getting off campus and interviewing experts in the field is an education in itself."

Kristof said Brennan has partnered with TV Cogeco for over 15 years and is grateful for the support his class gets from both the cable company and the WECDSB.

[Watch the videos here.](#)