



PARTNERSHIP FOR  
21ST CENTURY SKILLS

## Case Study Description May 2004

**Case Study #8:** Digital Documentaries

**Area of focus:** history and language arts, urban

**Location:** Bronx, New York

**Basic information:** Working with 40 Bronx, NY schools

**Website:** <http://www.atschool.org/digidocs/index.htm>

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### The Story:

The Bronx Borough President, Adolfo Carrión Jr., provided schools with laptops, camcorders and a challenge to create the best Public Service Announcement or local documentary about their community. Students in grades 5 - 12 will research, direct, and produce their own video examining local issues or historical events while focusing on social studies and language arts requirements.

Over the next two years 40 schools will create digital documentaries of their neighborhoods. Through filmmaking, students will acquire an understanding of the power of good questions and higher level thinking. The program will also be emphasizing skills students will need in all subject areas - literacy, content analysis, communication and perseverance.

Digital Documentaries is supported by Power to Learn and the Independent Film Channel (IFC). The IFC will provide experts in film making to help guide the students and answer questions about the film industry. Research has shown that the use of digital technology in a multitude of content areas can enhance student achievement by addressing introductory and advanced skills, assessing student progress, and motivating students.