

This is a printer friendly version of an article from GoUpstate.com

To print this article open the file menu and choose Print.

[Back](#)

---

Article published Apr 29, 2008

## Inglis to teens: U.S. needs your ideas

By [Ashlei N. Stevens](#)

Published: Tuesday, April 29, 2008 | Updated: 11:04 am

### ARTICLE OPTIONS

[♥ Discuss](#)

[✉ Email](#)

[🖨 Print](#)

[:digg this](#)

[:Facebook](#)

[:Newsvine](#)



Morten W. Rokeberg/Special to the Herald-Journal | [Order a reprint](#)

U.S. Rep. Bob Inglis spoke with Broome High School students on Monday, discussing hydrogen fuel, rising gasoline prices and a typical day in his office. He was invited by government teacher Gary Purinton.

When Hannah Whitt was born 17 years ago, gas only cost \$1, give or take a few cents. Now, the Broome High School senior has to work a part-time job and sacrifice shopping trips to Greenville in

order to pay at least \$3.35 per gallon.

"I think, 'what about my future children? What's gas gonna be like when they're driving?' " said Whitt, a senior. "It's so scary because what if we have no oil, and what if new technology hasn't been thought of?"

Whitt and a host of teenagers concerned about rising gas prices talked with U.S. Rep. Bob Inglis Monday at the school about hydrogen fuel, the importance of the youth vote and a day in the life of a congressman. Inglis was invited by government teacher Gary Purinton, who wanted students to get a face-to-face lesson with a congressman instead of just reading about them in a book.



Broome students, from left, Will Lowery, Joseph Heatherly and Gary Wright listen to congressman Inglis' presentation Monday. Wright, 17, says he would even come to speak to students says a lot," said Shaquinetta Morgan, 17. "It says he cares about Broome High." Morten W. Rokeberg/Special to the Herald-Journal

would even come to speak to students says a lot," said Shaquinetta Morgan, 17. "It says he cares about Broome High."

Inglis said it's important to encourage youth to constantly think of new concepts that can help the ever-changing global society.

"I really would like to issue the challenge that you want to take advantage of every opportunity you've got here, so you're prepared for technological hurdles you'll face," he said. "And the way to prepare is to use every opportunity at school."

One student questioned why the United States has not tapped Alaska for oil.

Inglis explained that the oil reserve in Alaska only represents 1/27 of the amount of oil needed by Americans each day - which is 20 million barrels a day and will be 27 million barrels in another decade.

Inglis stressed that the country's oil problems could not be solved in Alaska alone.

That's why he's working to ensure that there will soon be a day when Americans can "break free of this addiction to oil." He's currently working to fund research on alternative fuel methods - particularly the use of hydrogen.

BMW, General Motors and Toyota, Inglis said, are each looking at various ways to create hybrid cars or to run them off of hydrogen fuel. He's hopeful that more jobs can be brought to South Carolina through innovative fuel research.

"I had no idea (congressmen) could influence ideas about hydrogen," Shaquinetta said. "I didn't know what congressmen did until today."

Inglis' mornings and afternoons in Washington are filled with voting and constituent meetings, and he often spends three hours a night reading e-mails from people in the 4th Congressional District.

The father of five told the teens that the future lies in their hands. Most of the Broome seniors who heard him speak will be eligible to vote in the presidential election this year, and Inglis urged them to get involved and to let their voices be heard.

"(Young adults) really are now - more than ever - crucial to the political process because of their willingness to change," said Inglis, who faces Republican challenger Charles Jeter in the June primary. "I want them to harness their creativity to face these changes we've got to make to be competitive in a world market."

Gary Wright, a senior, said he may plan to contact Inglis in the future with questions about his job. He plans to major in political science this fall at Clemson University.

"I'd eventually like to be a representative. I want to have a bigger say in what happens," said Wright, 17, adding that Inglis urged the class to "get involved."

**Buzz up!**

More News

- [Four teams host baseball, softball district championships Wednesday](#)
- [Spartanburg police investigating homicide after man's body found off I-85](#)
- [Henderson tosses gem to lead Chesnee](#)

- [WSPA: Body found off Business I-85](#)
- ['Dance Dance' game gets kids to bust a move](#)

**Top AP Headlines**

- [Obama says he's outraged by former pastor's comments](#)
- [Bush hits Congress for inaction on energy, housing bills](#)
- [Officials: Captive family in Austria reunited](#)
- [Army recruits who get in despite bad conduct promoted faster](#)
- [Rescuers amazed that 6 twisters caused no deaths in Va.](#)

**Odd and Offbeat**

- [Bud the cat OK after being stuck in drain pipe for 4 days](#)
- [Saudi governor orders haircuts for men who hit on women](#)
- [Man accused of T-shirt thefts as girlfriend applies for job](#)
- [Wisconsin man starts Web site devoted to roadkill](#)
- [10-year-old monkey at Utah zoo gets artificial lenses](#)

<p><b>Refinance \$300,000 for Only</b>          \$300,000 Mortgage for only \$965/month. Save \$1,000's - No  <a href="http://www.HomeLoanHelpLine.com">www.HomeLoanHelpLine.c</a></p>	<p><b>No Time for School? Graduate</b>          Get a Degree in as Few as 2 Yrs- Graduate Faster with Online  <a href="http://www.ClassesUSA.com">www.ClassesUSA.com</a></p>	<p><b>New Car Weekend Sales</b>          Find out Today's Advertised New Car MSRP &amp; Instant Invoice  <a href="http://CarBargainsWeekly.com">CarBargainsWeekly.com</a></p>
--	--	---

Ads by Yahoo!



•