

C-SPAN's
STUDENTCAM
2017

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C-SPAN ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF 2017 STUDENTCAM DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION

Students address Congress and the president in documentaries on public policy



Sisters, Ava and Mia Lazar, will receive \$5,000 from C-SPAN for their Grand Prize documentary, "The Tempest-Tossed."

WASHINGTON – C-SPAN today announced the winners of the national 2017 StudentCam documentary competition. One hundred-fifty student and 53 teacher prizes, totaling \$100,000 in cash prizes, will be awarded for winning documentaries.

Each year, since 2006, C-SPAN partners with local cable affiliates in communities nationwide to invite middle school students (grades 6-8) and high school students (grades 9-12) to produce short documentaries on an issue of national importance. This year, students answered the question, "Your message to Washington: What is the most urgent issue for the new president and Congress to address in 2017?"

In response, C-SPAN received a record 2,903 video submissions from over 5,600 students in 46 states and Washington, D.C. Students worked in teams or as individuals to address a wide range of public policy issues from equality and the economy, to the environment and education.

"With the new president and Congress in office, we wanted to hear from students about public policy issues they would like addressed in 2017," said Craig McAndrew, C-SPAN's Manager of Education Relations. "StudentCam offers young people the opportunity to connect with lawmakers and experts and provides them with a platform to voice their opinions creatively."

The most popular topics chosen by students were equality (16 percent), which included police brutality, racial and gender discrimination, and women's rights, followed by the economy (13 percent) and the environment (11 percent).

High school students competed on a regional level with the United States being divided into three regions: West, Central and East. Middle school students were judged on a national basis. The grand prize winner was selected nationally among all regions and grade levels.

Mia Lazar and Ava Lazar will receive \$5,000 as grand prize winners in C-SPAN's national 2017 StudentCam competition for their documentary, "[The Tempest-Tossed](#)," about refugees and immigration policy. Mia is a freshman at Blacksburg High School, and Ava is a home schooled seventh-grader in Blacksburg, Virginia. Their winning documentary will air on C-SPAN at 6:50 a.m. ET and throughout the day on April 21.

Matthew Gannon, a junior at Gonzaga College High School in Washington, D.C., will receive \$3,000 as first prize winner in the East region for his documentary, "[Invisible](#)," about homelessness. His winning video will air on C-SPAN at 6:50 a.m. ET and throughout the day on April 20.

Jarod Clark, a senior at Royal Oak High School in Royal Oak, Michigan, will receive \$3,000 as first prize winner in the Central region for his documentary, "[Enough is Enough](#)," about pharmaceutical costs. His winning video will air on C-SPAN at 6:50 a.m. ET and throughout the day on April 19.

Arundathi Nair, a freshman at Laramie High School in Laramie, Wyoming, will receive \$3,000 as first prize winner in the West region for her documentary, "[Fossil Fuels to Renewables](#)." Her winning video will air on C-SPAN at 6:50 a.m. ET and throughout the day on April 18.

Molly Dougherty, Camdyn Lewis and Ava Decker, eighth graders at West Scranton Intermediate School in Scranton, Pennsylvania, are national first prize winners in the Middle School division. They will share \$3,000 for their documentary, "[U.S. Gun Violence: A Complicated Puzzle](#)." Their winning video will air on C-SPAN at 6:50 a.m. ET and throughout the day on April 17.

In addition to the grand prize and four first prize winners, C-SPAN is awarding 16 second prize winners, 32 third prize winners and 97 honorable mentions. These winning videos will receive cash prizes of \$1,500, \$750 and \$250, respectively.

For the second year in a row, C-SPAN is awarding a "Fan Favorite" prize. From Feb. 27-March 3, the public was presented with the opportunity to cast votes for their favorite documentary among 10 of the top winners. Matthew Gannon's video, "[Invisible](#)," received the greatest number of votes and so has been named C-SPAN's 2017 StudentCam Fan Favorite. He will receive \$500 in addition to his \$3,000 prize winnings.

Each winning video is available to view at <http://www.studentcam.org/winners17.htm> and may be used in a broadcast with attribution to C-SPAN. To schedule an interview with one or more winning students or with C-SPAN education staff, please contact Robin Newton, Media Relations Specialist, at

rnewton@c-span.org or Pam McGorry, Education Programs Specialist, at pmcgorry@c-span.org.

The annual competition is sponsored by the C-SPAN Education Foundation. Videos were evaluated by a panel of educators and C-SPAN representatives based on the thoughtful examination of the competition's theme, quality of expression, inclusion of varying sides of the documentary's topic, and effective incorporation of C-SPAN programming.

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About C-SPAN Classroom:

C-SPAN Classroom is the network's FREE membership service that works with C-SPAN's programs on public affairs, coverage of Congress, non-fiction books and American history to create free resources for teachers, students and the public to use in classrooms, projects or for research. C-SPAN Classroom's website provides social studies teachers with access to thousands of free resources, including short current events videos, Lesson Plans and Bell Ringers, plus Constitution Clips and On This Day in History events. Visit <https://www.c-span.org/classroom/> and follow on twitter: [@CSPANClassroom](https://twitter.com/CSPANClassroom).

About C-SPAN:

Created by the cable TV industry and now in nearly 100 million TV households, C-SPAN programs three public affairs television networks in both SD and HD; C-SPAN Radio, heard in Washington D.C., at 90.1 FM and available as an App (Android, iPhone, Blackberry); and a video-rich website offering live coverage of government events and access to the vast archive of C-SPAN programming. Visit <https://www.c-span.org/>.

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