



StudentCam, C-SPAN's national documentary competition, now in its thirteenth year, invites all middle school students (grades 6-8) and high school students (grades 9-12) to produce a short documentary using C-SPAN programming and showing different points of view.

This year, students are being challenged to produce a documentary that focuses on the topic: **"Your Message to Washington: What is the most urgent issue for the new president and Congress to address in 2017?"**

The C-SPAN Education Foundation awards 150 student and 53 teacher prizes, totaling \$100,000 in cash.

### **Competition Guidelines**

- Students may compete individually, or in teams of either 2 or 3 members. Documentaries must be the original work of students; however, teachers may provide guidance and critiques.
- All documentaries must include supporting C-SPAN video that relates to the chosen topic.
- Winning StudentCam documentaries will thoroughly represent a variety of viewpoints related to the chosen topic, including those that may oppose the filmmakers' points of view.
- Documentaries must be between 5-7 minutes in length.
- Deadline for students to submit entries is Inauguration Day, Friday, January 20, 2017.

The documentaries will be judged by a panel of C-SPAN representatives and educators. Videos will be evaluated on the complete exploration of the chosen topic, its relation to the contest's theme, quality of expression and creativity, inclusion of topically relevant C-SPAN programming, and varying points of view related to the topic.

### **Interview Subjects**

We strongly encourage students to consider interviewing experts on their chosen topic, as well as local and national political leaders. Students have interviewed U.S. Representatives, Senators, Governors, Cabinet members, as well as various national, state, and local officials. Students have also interviewed many experts outside of the government, such as business owners, journalists, doctors, professors, policy experts, members of research institutes, and others personally connected to their chosen topic.

Some examples of past interview subjects include:

- Presidential Candidate Donald Trump
- Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor
- Former Attorney General Eric Holder
- Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL)
- Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY)
- Senator Charles Grassley (R-IA)
- Former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice
- Gov. Gina Raimondo (D-RI)
- Gov. Matt Meade (R-WY)
- Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD)
- FEC Commissioner Ellen Weintraub
- Washington Post Reporter Ed O'Keefe

For more information, visit: [www.studentcam.org](http://www.studentcam.org)