

# C-SPAN STUDENTCAM 2021

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## C-SPAN Announces Winners of 2021 StudentCam Documentary Competition Awarding Over 150 Student and Teacher Prizes

*During unprecedented times, students addressed issues of national importance*



*Theodore Poulin receives \$5,000 for the Grand Prize documentary, "Trust Fall."*

**WASHINGTON (March 10, 2021)** – This year, despite the unique challenges brought about by COVID-19, more than 2,300 students across the country participated in C-SPAN's annual StudentCam documentary competition. Today C-SPAN announced the 2021 winners and will award a total of \$100,000 in cash prizes to students and teachers.

The competition, now in its 17<sup>th</sup> year, asked students to join the national conversation on the challenges our country is facing with the theme: "**Explore the issue you most want the president and new Congress to address in 2021.**"

In cooperation with cable television partners, C-SPAN invited all middle and high school students to enter the documentary contest. In response, C-SPAN received over 1,200 entries from 43 states and Washington, D.C. The most popular topics addressed were:

- Health Care (14.9%)
- Environmental and Energy Policy (14.6%)
- Equal Rights and Equity (13.5%)
- Criminal Justice/Policing (7.6%)
- Education (7.5%)

"With the continual shift in the educational landscape, it is difficult to overstate just how challenging the pandemic has proven for schools across our nation," said Craig McAndrew, Director, C-SPAN Education Relations. "We are so

impressed by the resilience and ingenuity of this year's prize-winning students who have delivered among the finest short films in the history of the StudentCam competition."

High school students competed on a regional level, with the United States 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.

The 2021 grand-prize winner is Theodore Poulin, a student at Williamsville South High School in Williamsville, New York, where C-SPAN is available through its partner Spectrum. Poulin will receive \$5,000 for the documentary, "Trust Fall," about the lack of trust in American government. This documentary will air on C-SPAN at 6:50 a.m. ET and throughout the day April 21.

Evelyn Shue and Ida Chen, Maryland students at Richard Montgomery High School in Rockville and Winston Churchill High School in Potomac, will receive \$3,000 as first-prize winners in the East region for the documentary, "High Stakes," about education and standardized testing. In Rockville and Potomac, C-SPAN is available through Comcast. This documentary will air on C-SPAN at 6:50 a.m. ET and throughout the day April 20.

Zane Smith and Gabriel Tiong, students at Jenks High School in Jenks, Oklahoma, will receive \$3,000 as first-prize winners in the Central region for the documentary, "Not a Victimless Crime," about online piracy. In Jenks, C-SPAN is available through Cox. This documentary will air on C-SPAN at 6:50 a.m. ET and throughout the day April 19.

Sofia Gevorgian and Anahit Malumyan, students at AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian School in Canoga Park, California — where C-SPAN is available through Spectrum — will receive \$3,000 as first-prize winners in the West region for the documentary, "Dear Congress and Mr. President, Recognize Artsakh." This documentary will air on C-SPAN at 6:50 a.m. ET and throughout the day April 18.

Carson Collins, a home-schooled student in Austin, Texas, is a national first-prize winner in the middle school division and will receive \$3,000 for the documentary, "Confucius Institutes: Education or Espionage?" Spectrum makes C-SPAN available in Austin. This documentary will air on C-SPAN at 6:50 a.m. ET and throughout the day April 17.

Aileen Qi and Kevin Rha, students at Montgomery Blair High School in Silver Spring, Maryland — where C-SPAN is available through Comcast — will receive \$1,500 as second-prize winners for the documentary, "Let Science Speak," about the importance of science in policymaking. This video was also recognized as "Fan Favorite" as voted on by the public between February 28 and March 7. The team will receive an additional \$500 in prize money. The documentary will air on C-SPAN at 6:50 a.m. ET and throughout the day on April 4.

C-SPAN is funded by America's cable television companies, its partners in StudentCam.

In addition to the grand prize and first prize winners, C-SPAN is awarding 16 second prizes, 32 third prizes and 97 honorable mention prizes. These winning videos will receive cash awards of \$1,500, \$750 and \$250, respectively. This year marks the 17th year of the StudentCam competition, which has awarded over \$1,000,000 in prizes.

Each winning video is available to view at [www.studentcam.org](http://www.studentcam.org) and may be used in a broadcast with attribution to C-SPAN.

The annual StudentCam 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, nonfiction 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. Engage with [C-SPAN Classroom](#) on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

**About C-SPAN:**

C-SPAN, the public affairs network providing Americans with unfiltered access to congressional proceedings, was created in 1979 as a public service by the cable television industry and is now funded through fees paid by cable and satellite companies that provide C-SPAN programming. C-SPAN connects with millions of Americans through its three commercial-free TV networks, C-SPAN Radio, the C-SPAN Radio App, [C-SPAN.org](#) and various social media platforms. C-SPAN's robust public affairs programming includes national and international public policy conversations; signature call-in programs such as its popular morning show *Washington Journal*; book and author discussions on C-SPAN2's Book TV; a chronicle of America's past on C-SPAN3's American History TV; and more. The network's video-rich website contains over 265,000 hours of searchable and shareable content, archived since 1987 for educational and reporting purposes. Learn more about C-SPAN at [C-SPAN.org/about/faq/](#). Engage with C-SPAN on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#), and stay connected through weekly and daily [newsletters](#).

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