

C-SPAN STUDENT 20 YEARS CAM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2024

C-SPAN Celebrates 20th Anniversary of StudentCam Awards \$150,000 in Cash Prizes

2024 winners announced: Students nationwide tackle topics that are important to them, including artificial intelligence, abortion, and climate



Pictured top left: Brendan Giang, Emily Tang & Max Reiter

Pictured bottom left: Dermott Foley

Pictured center: Nate Colman & Jonah Rothlein

Pictured top right: Brianna Johnson and Leah Cerulli

Pictured bottom right: Meital Zayats

WASHINGTON (March 13, 2024) — C-SPAN announces the winners of the 2024 StudentCam documentary competition, in which over 3,200 students from around the country participated. In honor of the 20th year of the competition, C-SPAN is gifting educators an additional \$50,000 for a total of \$150,000 in student and teacher cash prizes and awards.

Through this project-based learning experience, students were asked this year to address the theme: ***“Looking Forward while Considering the Past”*** with these two prompts:

a) ***In the next 20 years, what is the most important change that you would like to see in America?***

-OR-

b) ***Over the past 20 years, what has been the most important change in America?***

The 2024 grand prize winners are Nate Colman and Jonah Rothlein, students at Weston High School in Weston, Connecticut, where C-SPAN is available through its partner Optimum. They will receive \$5,000 for the documentary, “Innocents Held Hostage: Navigating Past and Future Conflicts with Iran.” This documentary will air on C-SPAN on April 21 at 6:50 a.m. ET and throughout the day.

In cooperation with its cable television partners, C-SPAN invited all middle and high school students to enter the documentary contest. In response, C-SPAN received over 1,600 entries from 42 states and Washington, D.C. The most popular topics addressed were:

- Artificial Intelligence, Technology, and Social Media (18%)
- Abortion, Health Care, and Mental Health (17%)
- Climate, Energy & Land Use, and Pollution (13%)
- School Safety, Gun Policy, and Criminal Justice (11%)
- Economy, School Funding, and Homelessness (8%)

“In recognition of the 20th anniversary of C-SPAN's StudentCam competition, this year we asked students to either look 20 years into the future or to reflect on a topic of importance to them and its past,” said Craig McAndrew, director of C-SPAN Education Relations. “Students have skillfully blended their perspectives with in-depth research and an array of expert interviews, and we are thrilled to share their accomplishments with their local communities, and the nation.”

High School students competed regionally in one of 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.

Brendan Giang, Emily Tang and Max Reiter, students at Palo Alto Senior High School in Palo Alto, California — where C-SPAN is available through Comcast — will receive \$3,000 as first prize winners in the West region for the documentary, “Threads of Change,” about the fast fashion industry. This documentary will air on C-SPAN on April 20 at 6:50 a.m. ET and throughout the day.

Dermott Foley, a student at Montgomery Blair High School in Silver Spring, Maryland, will receive \$3,000 as a first prize winner in the East region for the documentary, “The Promise of Langley Park: The Purple Line, Climate Change and Reimagining the Future of America's Suburbs.” In Silver Spring, C-SPAN is available through Comcast. This documentary will air on C-SPAN on April 19 at 6:50 a.m. ET and throughout the day.

Brianna Johnson and Leah Cerulli, students at Troy Athens High School in Troy, Michigan — where C-SPAN is available through Comcast — will receive \$3,000 as first prize winners in the Central region for the documentary, “Unseen Heroes: The Caregivers of America.” This documentary will air on C-SPAN on April 18 at 6:50 a.m. ET and throughout the day.

Meital Zayats, a student at Isaac Graham Newton Middle School in Mountain View, California, is a national first prize winner in the middle school division and will receive \$3,000 for the documentary, “Beyond Just Sci-Fi: AI Reshaping America's Tomorrow.” Comcast makes C-SPAN available in Mountain View. This documentary will air on C-SPAN on April 17 at 6:50 a.m. ET and throughout the day.

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. Over the course of two decades, C-SPAN has awarded more than \$1.5 million in prizes. Since 2004, over 63,000 students and 20,000 teachers have participated in the competition. StudentCam has been a catalyst for inspiring young minds to think critically about issues that are important to them and has empowered them with the tools they need to become informed, civically engaged citizens.

C-SPAN is funded by America’s cable television companies, its partners in StudentCam. Each winning video is available to view at 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 uses the network's programs on public affairs, coverage of Congress, nonfiction books and American history to create FREE digital tools for teachers, students, and the public to use in classrooms, in 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 [X/Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

About C-SPAN:

C-SPAN, the private nonprofit public affairs media organization providing Americans with unfiltered access to government proceedings, was created in 1979 as a public service by the cable television industry, and is primarily funded through fees paid by cable and satellite companies that provide C-SPAN's networks to subscribers. C-SPAN connects with millions of Americans through its three commercial-free TV networks, [C-SPAN Radio](#), [C-SPAN Podcasts](#), the [C-SPAN Now app](#), a new connected-TV streaming app [C-SPAN Select](#), [C-SPAN.org](#) and various social media platforms. The network's video-rich website contains nearly 300,000 hours of searchable and shareable content. Engage with C-SPAN on [X/Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [TikTok](#), [Threads](#), and [YouTube](#), and stay connected through weekly and daily [newsletters](#).

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