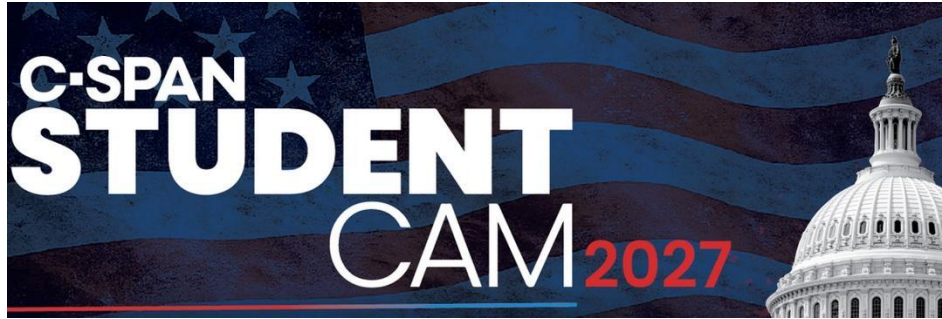




**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2026**

C-SPAN Launches 2027 StudentCam Documentary Competition

New theme announced — students take on the role of a newly elected member of Congress

Awarding \$100,000 in cash prizes to students and teachers

Washington, DC (Sept. 9, 2026) — C-SPAN's StudentCam documentary competition returns for its 23rd year, inviting students across the country to think critically about the issues shaping their communities and the nation. As the 2026 midterm elections approach, C-SPAN is challenging students to explore this year's theme:

"Mr. Speaker, I Rise To..."

Envision yourself as a newly elected member of Congress and produce a documentary about the issue you would address in your first House floor speech, and why it matters.

C-SPAN and its cable, satellite television and streaming partners invite middle and high school student filmmakers of all levels to enter the amateur documentary contest which awards \$100,000 in cash prizes.

The C-SPAN Education Foundation annually awards 150 student and 53 teacher cash prizes. The grand-prize student winner will receive \$5,000, with additional awards of \$3,000, \$1,500, \$750 and \$250 presented to students in the first, second and third prize, and honorable mention categories.

"With the upcoming 2026 midterm elections, C-SPAN is empowering young people to make their voices heard and bring attention to the issues that matter most to them," said Craig McAndrew, director of C-SPAN Education Relations. "We hope this year's StudentCam prompt encourages youth to consider the role of a newly elected member of Congress, explore an issue they are personally passionate about, and share their vision for making a difference in their communities and across the country."

Competition Guidelines

- Middle school students (grades 6–8) and high school students (grades 9–12) may compete individually or in teams composed of two or three members.
- Documentaries must be the original work of students; however, teachers may provide guidance and critiques.
- All documentaries must include C-SPAN video clips that support the chosen topic and are used effectively.
- StudentCam documentaries should comprehensively 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 and 6 minutes** in length.
- Entries must include sources, either in the end credits or works cited list.
- Video submissions and entry forms can be uploaded directly online at studentcam.org.
- The deadline for students to submit entries is 11:59 p.m. PST, **Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2027**.

The documentaries will be judged by a panel of C-SPAN representatives. Middle school students will be judged on a national basis. High school students will compete on a regional level, with the United States divided into three regions: West, Central and East. The grand-prize winner with the best overall entry will be selected nationally from both middle and high school entries.

Winners will be announced in March 2027, with the top winning videos to air on C-SPAN in April 2027. Competition details are available at studentcam.org.

Students and teachers can stay up to date with StudentCam on [X](#) and [TikTok](#) @studentcam and on [Instagram](#) @cspanstudentcam.

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 Declaration and Constitution Clips, Classroom Deliberations, and On This Day in History events. Engage with [C-SPAN Classroom](#) on [X](#) 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. C-SPAN receives no government funding and is supported primarily through license fees paid by the cable, satellite and streaming

companies that distribute the C-SPAN Networks, complemented by a growing program of philanthropic support from foundations, individual donors and others committed to sustaining C-SPAN's public-service mission for the future. 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 connected-TV streaming app [C-SPAN Select](#), [C-SPAN.org](#) and various social media platforms. The C-SPAN Networks' video-rich website contains over 300,000 hours of searchable and shareable content. Engage with C-SPAN on [X](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [TikTok](#), [Threads](#), and [YouTube](#), and stay connected through [weekly and daily newsletters](#).

Contacts:

Pam McGorry, Education Program Senior Specialist

202-626-4861

pmcgorry@c-span.org

Robin Newton, Communications & Engagement Manager

202-626-8910

rnewton@c-span.org