

C-SPAN's **STUDENTCAM** 2019

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WINNERS OF 2019 STUDENTCAM DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION ANNOUNCED, C-SPAN AWARDS ITS 1 MILLIONTH DOLLAR

C-SPAN marks 15th year of the competition with 10 percent increase in student participation



Mason Daugherty and Eli Scott will receive \$5,000 from C-SPAN for their Grand Prize documentary, "What It Means to Be American."

WASHINGTON (March 13, 2019) – C-SPAN announced the winners of the national 2019 StudentCam documentary competition awarding a total of \$100,000 in cash prizes to winning documentaries.

Each year since 2006, C-SPAN partners with its local cable television providers in communities nationwide to invite middle and high school students to produce short documentaries about a subject of national importance. This year students addressed the theme, "What does it mean to be American? Choose a constitutional right, national characteristic, or historic event and explain how it defines the American experience."

In response, a record 6,318 students (a 10 percent increase over 2018) from 48 states and Washington, D.C., participated. The most popular topics among the 2,923 submissions included First Amendment rights (17 percent), equality/discrimination (13 percent) and immigration (9 percent).

"Over the last 15 years, we've had the privilege of hearing viewpoints on a wide variety of issues directly from young filmmakers across the country," said C-SPAN's Manager of Education Relations Craig McAndrew. "This year, students clearly stepped up their approach to deliver thoughtful and diverse responses to our competition theme, which reflect enormous time and effort put into the research and construction of their documentaries."

The 2019 grand prize winners are Mason Daugherty and Eli Scott. They will receive \$5,000 for their documentary, "What It Means to Be American: Citizen Accountability in Government." Mason and Eli are students at Imagine International Academy of North Texas in McKinney, Texas. Their winning documentary will air on C-SPAN at 6:50 a.m. ET and throughout the day on April 21.

Ella Grace Rodriguez, Justin Whittingham and Luke Sand, students at Winter Park High School in Winter Park, Florida, will receive \$3,000 as first prize winners in the East region for their documentary, "Comfortably Numb: Honoring America's Right to a Free Press." Their video was also recognized as "Fan Favorite" as voted on by the public between Feb. 25 – March 3. The team will receive an additional \$500 in prize money. This documentary will air on C-SPAN at 6:50 a.m. ET and throughout the day on April 20.

Jacob Sammon, Matthew Moran and Riley Vander Hart, students at Urbandale High School in Urbandale, Iowa, will receive \$3,000 as first prize winners in the Central region for their documentary, "Fighting for a Better Tomorrow," about the First Amendment. Their winning video will air on C-SPAN at 6:50 a.m. ET and throughout the day on April 19.

Cristian Granados and Gabriel Wright, students at William J. Palmer High School in Colorado Springs, Colorado, will receive \$3,000 as first prize winners in the West region for their documentary, "What It Means to Be American: Voting." Their winning video will air on C-SPAN at 6:50 a.m. ET and throughout the day on April 18.

Ida Chen and Hana Lee, students at Eastern Middle School in Silver Spring, Maryland, are national first prize winners in the middle school division. They will share \$3,000 for their documentary, "Mc'America: America Runs on Fast Food." Their winning video will air on C-SPAN at 6:50 a.m. ET and throughout the day on April 17.

C-SPAN is funded by America's cable television companies, whom also support StudentCam. C-SPAN is available locally in McKinney, Texas, and Winter Park, Florida, through Spectrum; in Urbandale, Iowa, through Mediacom; and in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and Silver Spring, Maryland, through Comcast.

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.

In addition to the grand prize and first prize winners, C-SPAN is awarding 16 second prize winners, 32 third prize winners and 97 honorable mention prizes. These winning videos will receive cash awards of \$1,500, \$750 and \$250, respectively. This year C-SPAN marks its 15th year of the competition and awards its 1 millionth dollar in StudentCam prize money.

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

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. Follow [C-SPAN Classroom](#) on Twitter and Facebook: [@CSPANClassroom](#).

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 wholly 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](https://www.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 245,000 hours of searchable and shareable content, archived since 1987 for educational and reporting purpose. C-SPAN can be seen in the community at book fairs, social studies and teacher conferences, historical events and visiting landmarks across the country with the C-SPAN Cities Tour or bringing the 45-foot C-SPAN Bus to hundreds of schools nationwide. Learn more about C-SPAN at <https://www.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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