C-SPAN STUDENT DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION
STUDENTCAM

CHECKLIST - GENERAL REQUIREMENTS & OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

TEACHER NOTE: to use this resource in your classroom - click 'file' and then click 'make a copy' to create your own Google Doc version to edit as needed and share with your students.

✔	**Requirements:**
	My/our topic clearly relates to the 2027 StudentCam theme, ***"Mr. Speaker, I Rise To…"*** *This year we are asking students to put themselves in the shoes of a newly elected member of Congress and produce a documentary on the issue they would address in their first speech before the legislature, explain why they chose their stated issue, consider various points of view on their topic, and describe potential solutions.*
	My/our documentary was created by 1-3 people. (*A documentary created by more than 3 members will be disqualified. Teachers and adults may provide general guidance but may not actively participate in the production*)
	My/our documentary contains several clips of C-SPAN video footage with supporting or opposing viewpoints, historical or background context, and/or b-roll footage that relate to my chosen topic.
	My/our documentary explores multiple sides of my chosen topic, including those that may oppose my/our points of view.
	My/our documentary is free of violent or offensive content (*images and language*).
	My/our documentary is between 5:00 – 6:00 in length. Eligible documentaries must be at least 5:00 minutes in length, or must conclude by the 6:00 minute mark. *(End credits may begin after the 5:00 mark, and end credits are permitted to run beyond the 6:00 minute documentary time limit)*
	My/our documentary contains either end credits or a submitted works cited list. (*Works cited lists may be uploaded and submitted with your Entry Form, or submitted via email to **educate@c-span.org***)
	Submit your video by 11:59pm PST by the end of the day on Wednesday, January 20, 2027. Complete the Entry Form here.

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✔	**Other Considerations:** (highly recommended to enhance your documentary, but not required.)
	My/our documentary features interviews with topical experts, elected officials, and/or people directly impacted by my chosen documentary topic. *Make sure to identify who is speaking, and their title, if applicable.*
	My/our documentary features supporting b-roll footage related to my documentary. *B-Roll footage can be anything related to the topic you are discussing and is used to add additional visual interest, or provide additional visual context.*
	My/our documentary features copyright-free music that doesn't overpower interviews or voiceovers. *Make sure to reduce volume of background music when people are speaking - the information being presented is of higher importance than any background music.*
	My/our documentary features narration. *Consider recording yourself speaking on camera but if you are uncomfortable doing that, audio narration can really help tie the various elements of your documentary together. You must write your own scripts to avoid plagiarism, and while you may certainly use sources from your research to inform your narration, you must put that information in your own words*.