

Video Contest Rules

CONTEST RULES

All videos should specifically address one of the four Contest Topics listed above.

Eligibility – The contest is open to students in grades 5-12 and college at some point during the contest period September 9, 2026-March 12, 2027. Only one video submission will be accepted for each student. Students may enter both the essay and video contests. Students must reside in the United States, Canada, or at a U.S. military address, and all submissions should be in English. Employees of Stossel in the Classroom, Stossel TV, and Center for Independent Thought, or any person or organization involved in the operation and/or setup of the contest, and their immediate family members are not eligible for this contest.

Previous winners of a Stossel in the Classroom first place prize are not eligible for prizes in our subsequent contests, unless they're competing in a different division (middle school, high school, or college) or contest type (essay/video/AI).

Video Length and Format – Videos must be no shorter than 1 minute in length and no longer than 3 minutes in length. Video speed altered for the purpose of meeting the time requirements may be penalized. Videos must be uploaded to somewhere accessible to others, such as YouTube, TikTok, Vimeo, or Google Drive. Make sure your video is not set to Private. You may set it to "Unlisted" on YouTube. Submissions that do not meet these requirements will be disqualified.

Deadline – Videos must be submitted no later than 11:59pm Eastern Time, March 12, 2027.

Plagiarism – All videos must be the original work of the student whose name is listed on the submission form. Using video footage, music, or graphics that exist in the public domain or fall under fair use is acceptable.

Collaboration – Multiple students may collaborate on one video, but the video should only be submitted once, under a single student's name. For our purposes, that student will be considered the sole filmmaker.

Taxes – Winners will be solely responsible for any federal, state, or local taxes on winnings.

Judging – Videos will be judged on their ability to answer the topic question in an articulate, clear, and organized manner. Stossel in the Classroom will evaluate video submissions in a fair and unbiased multi-round judging system, in which judges all use the same criteria. Judges will be selected by Stossel in the Classroom based on their backgrounds and expertise in education, media, and the subject matter. Decisions of the judges are final.

Ownership and Use – The ownership of any submission remains the property of the filmmaker, but entry into the competition constitutes the entrant's permission and consent, without compensation, with or without attribution, for Stossel in the Classroom, Stossel TV, and Center

for Independent Thought to use, reproduce, transmit, post, distribute, adapt, edit, and/or display the submission.

TIPS FOR STUDENTS

- Feel free to think outside the box! In our past contests, we've awarded prizes to videos in a variety of genres, including serious video essays, animation, comedy sketches, and even an original music performance. Find what you do best and go for it!
- Don't forget the 1-3 minute time requirement. Videos that are under 1 minute or over 3 minutes will be disqualified.
- Make sure your video is not set to "Private." It can be set to "Unlisted" on YouTube or "Anyone with a link" on Google Drive, but if it's set to "Private," we will be unable to view and rate it.
- Don't wait until the last minute to submit. It takes time to upload a video, and that time could be the difference between meeting the deadline and missing it.
- For more tips, don't miss our Video Contest Guide. It's full of advice to help you avoid common mistakes.

If you have any questions about our contests, please email us at contests@SITC.org.

We look forward to watching your video. Good luck!