

The Don's Choice Awards survey, completed by 281 Aragon students, asked students to choose their favorite media, artists, memes, foods and more from 2021. The following are the winners from each of the different categories...

DON'S CHOICE AWARDS

Favorite Music Genre

1st Place: Pop - 20.6%

Pop music originated in the West during the 1950s and 1960s, integrating other styles of music such as urban, country and rock music. The evolution of pop music over the years has led to its increased popularity, shifting from bands to more individual artists as well as collaboration between popular artists. Its sensational sounds captivate the audience, and the lyrics tend to resonate with people. Pop artists like Taylor Swift and Harry Styles produce this kind of mainstream music, making the popularity of pop music continue to rise.

2nd Place: Indie - 18.5%

3rd Place: Hip hop - 13.2%

Favorite Actress

1st Place: Zendaya - 48.4%

Zendaya kick started her career by starring in Disney Channel shows like "K.C. Undercover" and "Shake it Up." In 2017, she gained even more recognition for her acting skills after playing MJ in the Tom Holland Spider-Man trilogy and playing Anne Wheeler in "The Greatest Showman." She continued on to play lead roles in popular works like "Euphoria" in 2019 and "Dune" in 2021, showing off her versatility as a talented actress. Fans also admire her for her fashion, relatability, humor and empowering personality as a strong role model for women of color.

2nd Place: Florence Pugh - 10.3%

3rd Place: Scarlett Johansson - 9.3%

Favorite 2021 Meme

1st Place: Among Us - 26.3%

Among Us is a social deduction multiplayer game in which four to 15 players work together to determine which of the players is an impostor. Up to three impostors are randomly chosen and tasked with killing an equal number of crewmates or sabotaging the map. The game rose to popularity toward the end of 2020 and maintained that popularity well into 2021. A subsequent variety of memes were created about the game and circulated the internet quite frequently.

2nd Place: Bernie Sanders' mittens - 24.9%

3rd Place: Good soup - 14.2 %

Favorite Boba Shop

1st Place: Teaspoon - 25.3%

First established in Los Altos, Calif., Teaspoon is a California-based boba chain with a location in downtown San Mateo. With a wide variety of drinks from traditional milk tea to fruit drinks to even a few signatures, Teaspoon maintains its reputation in downtown San Mateo as a popular boba shop.

2nd Place: Tpumps - 23.1%

3rd Place: Sharetea - 13.2%

Favorite Artist

1st Place: Taylor Swift - 18.1%

Over the last 16 years of her career, Taylor Swift has switched from genre to genre, all the while holding on to a large, loyal and enthusiastic fan base. She began her music career in country music, releasing her self-titled debut album in 2006 when she was only 16 years old. Since then, she's experimented with different types of music, especially pop. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she surprised her fans with the release of her alternative folk-inspired albums "folklore" and "evermore." Over the course of the past year, Taylor Swift has spent time re-recording her first six albums due to American media proprietor Scooter Braun acquiring ownership of her master recordings against her wishes. So far, she has released her re-recorded versions for "Red" and "Fearless."

2nd Place: BTS - 13.9%

3rd Place: Doja Cat - 10.3%

Favorite Movie

1st Place: "Spider-Man: No way Home" - 42.3%

Despite the rise of the Omicron variant at the time, "Spider-Man: No Way Home," the last movie of the Tom Holland Spider-man trilogy, grossed a North American box office of \$260 million on its opening weekend and went on to become the highest-grossing film of 2021. Marvel fans were very excited for this movie in particular because it explored the consequences of tampering with the multiverse. It also reintroduced iconic villains such as Green Goblin, Doctor Octopus, Electro and more that starred in the Tobey Maguire and Andrew Garfield Spider-Man movies.

2nd Place: "Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings" - 15.3%

3rd Place: "Encanto" - 14.2%

Favorite TV Show

1st Place: "Euphoria" - 19.2%

When "Euphoria" first premiered in 2019, it quickly became a massive hit among teens and young adults. The show follows a cast of high school students and is noted for its raw and graphic portrayal of adolescence. It explores a wide variety of mature themes ranging from drugs, sex and violence to identity and mental health. The camera work, soundtrack and lighting combined with the complex backstories and personalities of each character paint an excruciatingly detailed picture of some of the issues teenagers may face. The highly anticipated second season premiered on Jan. 9.

2nd Place: "Squid Game" - 17.4%

3rd Place: "Loki" - 14.2%

Favorite Album

1st Place: Red (Taylor's Version) by Taylor Swift - 17.1%

After having her master records sold off to American media proprietor and record executive Scooter Braun against her wishes in 2019, Taylor Swift took it upon herself to re-record each of the six albums she had lost ownership of. Almost a decade after "Red" was first released in 2012, "Red (Taylor's Version)" was released in November of 2021. In addition to the original songs, "Red (Taylor's Version)" includes songs "from the vault" — songs Swift wrote that didn't make the final cut for the album. The crowning jewel of these new songs "from the vault" is undoubtedly the 10-minute version of "All Too Well," a fan-favorite ballad exploring the role of memory in the face of heartbreak. Swift also directed a short film with actors Sadie Sink and Dylan O'Brien to serve as an accompanying music video, which has since gained over 50 million views on YouTube. "Red (Taylor's Version)" has proven so far to be a massive commercial success, selling over 500 thousand album-equivalent units in its first five days and breaking numerous records.

2nd Place: Planet Her by Doja Cat - 13.9%

3rd Place: "CALL ME IF YOU GET LOST" by Tyler, the Creator - 13.2%

Favorite Actor

1st Place: Tom Holland - 31.3%

Tom Holland began his career as a dancer, taking a variety of dance classes ranging from ballet to hip hop. He spent most of his life on stage, and was first casted at age 12 for the lead in "Billy Elliot the Musical." In 2012, he entered the big screen with his first movie, "The Impossible," marking the beginning of his success in the film industry. He continued to star in movies and became a worldwide sensation after his debut as Spider-Man in the Marvel Cinematic Universe. Holland has gained a large following due to his charismatic personality and continues to inspire and entertain individuals with his great acting skills.

2nd Place: Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson - 24.2%

3rd Place: Timothée Chalamet - 11%

Favorite Social Media

1st Place: TikTok - 32.7%

From dance challenges to storytimes, TikTok has become one of the most popular social media platforms over the last few years. The "for you page" algorithm makes it easy for people to lose track of time, as they can endlessly scroll through videos that draw their attention. Not only do people enjoy engaging in trends that rise on the platform, but they are also able to easily find and interact with those who share common interests. TikTok continues to gain popularity, with over 2 billion downloads across the world thus far.

2nd Place: YouTube - 23.1%

3rd Place: Instagram - 21%

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