

During this time of social distancing and online learning, it's more important than ever to help students develop a connection to their community, communicate with their peers and develop an understanding of how they can make an impact. Close Up's programming will help students engage meaningfully with peers and cultivate civic skills for participation in democracy.

The program is designed to empower students to find their voice, share their stories, and take a stand on the issues that matter most to them and to their communities. Over the course of the program, students will share their own experiences, discuss and debate key current issues, and make connections to how public policy impacts their lives, families, and local communities.

*Empowering Youth Voices* is a week-long virtual program with approximately 90-minute synchronous learning sessions each day. Each session is facilitated and led by a trained Close Up Instructor. The total number of students would dictate the total number of instructors and breakout rooms. Over the course of 5 sessions, students will participate in community building activities, explore current issues, develop their own perspectives, and practice articulating and persuading peers and community members about their positions.



## KEY COMPONENTS

**Community Building:** Share personal backgrounds, stories, and experiences with one another to establish a cohesive and supportive online community.

**Current Issues Discussions:** Explore and discuss current controversial issues facing our country, such as immigration, the environment, racial inequity, and homelessness.

**Expert Seminar:** Hear from a policy expert about one current issue, and consider what actions should be taken to address the issue.

**Take a Stand:** Work together to consider possible actions and recommendations for addressing important issues.

**Student Forum:** Present ideas, commitment to action and recommendations to peers and community members.



### PROGRAM SESSIONS, READING MATERIAL, AND CURRICULAR CONTENT ARE AS FOLLOWS:

#### MIDDLE SCHOOL

The curriculum focuses on students' connection to government, how individuals make an impact, and how they can get involved in community issues.

#### HIGH SCHOOL

The curriculum relies heavily on current issues and allows students to consider what actions they would like government to take on issues that impact them and their communities.

Both programs seek to build students' sense of confidence and connection to their community, help students develop public speaking skills, and empower students to engage directly with issues that matter to them.

**REGISTER  
TODAY!**

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**DEADLINE:** 7/1/2020

**COST:** \$175 per student  
**DATE:** August 17-21, 2020