

BECOME A DOMESTIC ISSUES DEBATER!



Liberal? Conservative? Share your views with Close Up students in a Domestic Issues Debate!

Each week throughout the school year, Close Up brings students from all over the country to our nation's capital for an immersive, multi-day program that teaches them the skills of active citizenship. One of the opening components is a Domestic Issues (DI) Debate between two DC-area professionals: one liberal and one conservative. Students ask questions, the debaters share their views, and the audience gains an understanding of how the two sides think—without the lens of media or social networks.

We Want You! To become a debater, all you need is a passion for politics and policy from the liberal or conservative viewpoint. No experience in formal, competitive debate is needed.

How It Works

In a DI Debate, the two debaters have an audience of approximately 100 high school students from a number of states, urban and rural areas, and public and private schools. Before the debate, students will have created questions about domestic issues they care about. Typical questions include:

- What is your view on the Green New Deal? Are concerns about climate change valid?
- What is your stance on the Second Amendment?
- What is your stance on the legalization of marijuana?
- Do you think the United States has a problem with illegal immigration?
- What do you think about the Black Lives Matter movement?

The debate structure is casual and simple. Each debater delivers a prepared, three-minute opening statement about the liberal or conservative viewpoint. As students ask questions, each debater gives a two-minute response. (There are also three opportunities per side to give a 45-second rebuttal.) At the end, each debater delivers a three-minute closing statement.

Where and When

DI Debates take place weekly, **typically on Sunday nights at 8:30 pm** at the hotel where students are staying. (We use a variety of Metro-accessible locations in the DMV area, mostly in Rosslyn and Crystal City.) Occasionally, debates are booked on other weeknights.

Contact Us

If you have any questions or are interested in debating, please fill out the [interest page](#) and/or contact Samantha Garza, Close Up Speaker Coordinator, at sgarza@closeup.org or 575-910-0047. We love to have our new debaters watch a DI Debate with us before debating on their own!

About Close Up

Founded in 1971, Close Up is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, civic education organization with the mission of educating and inspiring students to become active participants in our democracy. Our Washington high school program is a unique and exciting experience that brings together students from all over the country to learn the power of civic engagement. Throughout the week, students take part in current issues workshops and simulations, meetings with elected officials and policymakers, seminars with experts and advocates, and visits to monuments, memorials, museums, and government institutions.