

TAKING CLOSE UP HOME

CLOSE UP WASHINGTON



Thank you for helping your student take part in our hands-on, interactive program in Washington, DC! Dedicated teachers and parents are key to making the Close Up experience possible. However, we recognize that it can sometimes be difficult to talk with your middle school student about politics.

At Close Up, we strive to give students the tools for a lifetime of informed and engaged citizenship. Below you will find questions and resources to help you learn about your student's Close Up experience and help them reflect on what they learned about civics and American history while on our program. Talking with your students about their time in DC will make their learning more concrete and help them continue to get the most out of their Close Up program. Each student received a Close Up Student Notebook when they arrived. It may help your discussion if you look back through the information and entries from your student within the notebook.

"DINNER TABLE" QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER FOR YOUR STUDENT:

- What bill(s) did you discuss in Mock Congress? Did the bill(s) pass or fail, and why?
- Where were the students from in your workshop/small group? What was it like to work with people from a different school or state?
- Which historical figure did you like learning about the most? What did they do that inspired you to want to know more about them?
- When you discussed your rights as a citizen, which ones did you think were the most important and why?
- What is one thing that a group of citizens or an individual did in the past that you learned about on Close Up? How did that action change the course of American history?
- What monument in DC inspired you most and why?
- What photo that you took this week means the most to you and why?
- What was your workshop's citizenship pledge? How will you carry that out back home?

WAYS TO CONTINUE LEARNING WITH YOUR STUDENT:

- There are many fun ways to keep learning after Close Up. One way is with iCivics. You can compete with your student on the Bill of Rights game (www.icivics.org/games/bill-of-rights) or in the Civic Responsibility Launcher (www.icivics.org/games/responsibility-launcher). Both are a great way to reinforce learning and have fun while doing it!
- Pick a piece of your student's citizenship pledge to take on with them. Have your student decide what they would like to tackle first and then help them follow through.
- Have your student submit their most meaningful photo to the school paper, yearbook or local newspaper and write a brief story about why that photo means so much to them and what they learned on program.
- Help your student learn more about their favorite individual or group of citizens from history and what they did. Use online resources from the National Archives (www.archives.gov/exhibits/) and the Library of Congress digital collections (www.loc.gov/collections/) to read letters, examine photos and listen to audio recordings that help students gain a more comprehensive understanding of history.

Thank you again for your support of Close Up and for encouraging your student to get involved in civics and history! For the most up-to-date information on civic education and Close Up programming, please follow us @CloseUp_DC and like us on Facebook at "Close Up Educational Programs". Please also encourage your student to join our alumni network at www.CloseUp.org/about/alumni-network/.