

# CLOSE UP FOUNDATION

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & CLASSROOM RESOURCES



Drawing on almost 50 years of experience in issue-centered education and nonpartisan instruction, Close Up now offers professional development trainings and classroom resources that provide teachers and school districts with the tools and strategies to engage students in meaningful discourse about current controversial issues.

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

On-site professional development sessions are available for middle school and high school educators across the country in half-day, full-day, and multi-session formats. All sessions can be adapted based on school curricula, objectives, and grade levels. Teachers walk away with concrete tools to facilitate civil classroom discussions on current controversial issues, effective strategies for promoting inclusion and collaboration, techniques to employ when civil discourse breaks down, and classroom-ready resources to inform and guide student thinking.

Sessions include:

- **Framing Issues for Debate and Deliberation:** Why is it critical to address controversial topics with students through issue-centered education? What different formats can teachers use to foster informed and constructive in-class debate? Close Up trainers will model various debate formats and demonstrate how to best implement them in your classroom.
- **Integrating Controversial Issues Into Your Curriculum:** How can teachers and administrators use the *Close Up in Class* library to build a comprehensive curricular sequence in their school or district? Using both Close Up's resources and their own curriculum, Close Up trainers will help teachers create specific plans for implementing strategies and techniques in their classroom.
- **Media Literacy and Citizenship:** How can teachers help students to gather, assess, and use information to engage in meaningful discussions about current issues and events? Close Up trainers will provide specific strategies and lesson plans to help students access, understand, use, and effectively share information, and will help teachers navigate concerns over social media and "fake news."
- **Community Engaged Classrooms:** How can we help students move from inquiry to action in their community? Close Up Trainers will provide teachers with a series of lessons, strategies, and "action pathways" aimed at engaging students with their local community through meaningful, student-driven projects and activities.

### CLASSROOM RESOURCES

Close Up creates—and frequently updates—a wealth of classroom resources to help teachers explore critical issues facing the nation. The resource libraries help students and teachers investigate current events and debates, research pressing issues using reliable sources, and develop real-world skills for community engagement. One resource library is included with the purchase of a professional development session. Resources libraries can be purchased individually or as a package, and are available at both middle school and high school reading levels.

Close Up offers three digital resource libraries:

- **Controversial Issues in the News** are designed to help students develop a greater understanding of current events. A new issue is released each month, offering a balanced examination of a bill moving through Congress, a high-stakes Supreme Court case, or another headline news debate.
- **Public Policy In-Depth** takes a comprehensive look at key domestic and foreign policy issues. Each unit introduces students to a broad policy topic (such as immigration, the economy, or global security) and uses framing questions to explore multiple sides of the issue. Also available in print.
- **Historical Perspectives** presents the first-hand experiences of Americans throughout history, using primary sources, literature, video, and virtual reality experiences.

If you are interested in learning more about our Professional Development trainings or would like us to reach out to your district, please email us at [classroom@closeup.org](mailto:classroom@closeup.org) or call us at 703-706-3411.