

# CLOSE UP: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## MEDIA LITERACY + CITIZENSHIP



### SESSION OVERVIEW: MEDIA LITERACY AND CITIZENSHIP

In order to deliberate together as citizens about the issues we face in our communities and nation, we must be willing and able to slow down, evaluate and critique news sources, and seek information from a broad range of perspectives. In the Citizenship & Media Literacy and Citizenship Professional Development Session, teachers will develop the skills and knowledge to help foster students' ability to critically evaluate media messages. Teachers who attend this session will leave with an enriched understanding of the current media landscape, knowledge of key concepts in media literacy, and the ability to apply those skills in the classroom. Teachers will also receive a set of resources and activities to help students engage with a wide range of sources, read critically, apply media literacy to social and digital media, and understand how to identify active efforts to mislead.

#### Session topics will include:

- 1. Media Literacy in Context:** To get started, teachers will explore the history of the political news media in the United States to see how it has changed over time and how it continues to evolve today. Teachers will understand the connection between media, information literacy, citizenship engagement, and how the current media landscape shapes the ability of citizens to deliberate and take action on important issues. A Close Up trainer will guide teachers through a series of classroom resources that will help students understand the ways in which the relationship between media and politics has changed over time.
- 2. Principles and Practices for Media Literacy Education:** Teachers will discuss eight major concepts in media literacy that can help students critically engage with news and social media. Teachers will engage in interactive exercises to put the concepts into practice and to help develop their understanding of the central ideas that can boost media literacy. In addition, teachers will receive concrete tools, tips, and activities to help develop students' media literacy and facilitate classroom discussions about current controversial issues.
- 3. Integrating Media Literacy in Your Classroom:** To tie everything together, teachers will work jointly to model classroom activities and a Close Up trainer will guide teachers through various lessons, activities, and assignments intended to build students' capacity to make sense of news and social media. After teachers gain a grasp of the material, trainers will help them to begin building a comprehensive curricular sequence. This time is also intended to introduce teachers to a broader set of Close Up classroom resources. Using a combination of Close Up resources and teachers' curriculum, Close Up trainers will help create specific plans for implementing strategies and techniques that create a classroom ready to have meaningful, reasoned discussions about current issues and events.