

CLOSE UP: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

FRAMING ISSUES FOR DEBATE AND DELIBERATION



SESSION OVERVIEW: FRAMING ISSUES FOR DEBATE AND DELIBERATION

Through an intensive practice-oriented Professional Development session, teachers will gain the knowledge and competencies needed to address sensitive topics in the classroom and meaningfully incorporate current issues into their curriculum. Teachers who attend this session will leave with the ability to connect headlines to major concepts and tensions in our democracy, and facilitate high quality debates and deliberations in the classroom. This session will be broken into three topics outlined below.

Session topics will include:

- 1. Framing Controversial Public Issues and Forming a Classroom Community:** This strand is intended to establish the foundation for a community of learners where all voices are equally heard in discussions. By accounting for a diversity of student experiences, readiness, interests, and learning profiles, teachers will learn how to create an inclusive environment where various perspectives are respected. Once the foundation of a learning community is established, the workshop will develop teachers' abilities to connect current events and issues to longstanding political and social controversies through the use of well-crafted questions, guided inquiry, and critical analysis and evaluation.
- 2. Principles and Practices for Classroom Debate & Deliberation:** Teachers build upon their understanding of the best ways to frame controversial issue discussions and consider the varied ways in which debate can be used in the classroom. Teachers will be introduced to a range of debate structures, practice facilitation skills, and examine real-life classroom scenarios to consider how to respond when debate breaks down or leads to unproductive arguing. Teachers will also learn and practice techniques to help students form good arguments and respond to the arguments of others. Finally, teachers will engage in and reflect on a model debate to better understand the skills used by trainers to guide a debate. Teachers will receive written explanations of various classroom ready debate structures to help them implement the ideas and skills developed during this section.
- 3. Integrating Controversial Issues into Your Classroom:** This time is intended to introduce teachers to all of the *Close Up in Class* resources. Trainers will guide teachers through various issue discussions and lesson plans and will engage teachers in modeling activities. After teachers have a grasp of the materials, trainers will help teachers to start building a comprehensive curricular sequence. Using a combination of Close Up's resources and teachers' own curriculum, Close Up Trainers will help create specific plans for implementing strategies and techniques in the classroom.