

CLOSE UP CONVERSATION SERIES

CONVERSATION SERIES IN-DEPTH

CLOSE UP CONVERSATION SERIES #1: BUILDING CULTURAL AWARENESS AND DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES

GRADE LEVEL: 6-8

TIME COMMITMENT: Four to five class periods total, including three Close Up conversations (30-45 minutes each).

CLASSROOM PREP: We encourage all classrooms to set up student expectations, set ground rules, and prepare students for productive online exchanges.

CONVERSATION OUTLINE:

Building Relationships

Conversation #1: The first conversation establishes rapport, builds trust, and helps students learn how to relate to one another. Students will explore questions around relationships, respecting differences, and resolving problems.

Comparing Cultures & Communities

Conversation #2: The second conversation asks students to reflect on how their community and cultural heritage influences their opinions. Paired students will take a critical lens to the role that their culture, community groups, and local institutions play in shaping their perspectives.

Exploring American Identity

Conversation #3: In this final conversation, students will focus on the role that broader American culture and values play in shaping students' perspectives. As students discuss what it means to be American, they will consider how national leaders, media, and technology have an impact on the collective American identity.

CLOSE UP CONVERSATION SERIES #2: EXAMINING CURRENT ISSUES & WHY PEOPLE DISAGREE

GRADE LEVEL: 9-12

TIME COMMITMENT: Four to five class periods total, including three Close Up conversations (30-45 minutes each), one classroom activity (45 minutes), and one homework assignment (30 minutes).

CONVERSATION OUTLINE:

Building Relationships

Classroom Prep: We encourage all classrooms to set up student expectations, set ground rules, and prepare students for productive online exchanges.

Conversation #1: The first conversation establishes rapport, builds trust, and helps students learn how to relate to one another. Students explore questions around relationships, respecting differences, and resolving problems.

Political Values

Classroom Prep: The Political Values lesson plan helps students understand why people hold the political values they do and how these values influence our thinking about policy issues.

Conversation #2: The second conversation centers on political values and how they influence the decision-making process.

Policy Discussion (Topics: *Immigration, Climate Change, Opioid Crisis or School Shootings*)

Classroom Prep or Homework: Teachers are encouraged to have students read and discuss the provided Policy Discussion Background Guide.

Conversation #3: During the third conversation, students discuss and deliberate a set of policy options to address the specific issue chosen by the paired educators.