

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: FRAMING ISSUES FOR DEBATE AND DELIBERATION

3-Hour Interactive Workshop

This intensive, practice-oriented professional development session will provide teachers with the knowledge and competencies needed to address sensitive topics in class and meaningfully incorporate current issues into their curriculum. Teachers who attend this session will leave with the abilities to connect headlines to major concepts and tensions in our democracy, and to facilitate high-quality debates and deliberations.

Session Overview

Framing Controversial Issues and Creating a Classroom Community: Establishing a supportive, open community is essential to dialogue and inquiry.

- Teachers will learn practical techniques to establish norms and procedures that foster civil dialogue between students.
- Teachers will practice developing strong central questions to shape debates and deliberations around current issues.

Understanding Values & Tensions: Building on a set of mutually understood values can help form a common basis for discussion that promotes understanding and empathy.

- Teachers will receive a set of core values and tensions which interact to form the basis of virtually any controversial issue discussion.
- Teachers will take part in a model activity which applies these values to real-world scenarios in order to promote dialogue and comprehension.

Model Discourse – Debate/Deliberation: Productive student discourse can take place in a variety of forms, each with its own structure and set of learning outcomes.

- Teachers will learn the key structural differences between discussion, debate, and deliberation.
- Teachers can choose to take part in a debate or deliberation model, during which Close Up facilitators will highlight key techniques and the learning outcomes they can produce.

Reflecting on the Use of Discourse: It is vital to be conscientious about content, outcomes, and applicability to individual classrooms when choosing a structure for discourse.

- Teachers will work collaboratively to discuss the advantages and challenges of each form of discourse in their classrooms.
- A Close Up facilitator will lead teachers through a discussion of which discourse structures would function best in their unique class settings and help them reach their curricular goals.

What To Do When Discourse Breaks Down: Tensions can arise during challenging conversations; this component will prepare teachers to address and defuse tensions in the moment.

- A Close Up facilitator will guide teachers through a series of practical tools to manage discussions and help prevent disruptive discourse.
- Teachers will explore a set of scenarios surrounding the topics of the election, the pandemic, and the protests, and learn actionable techniques to keep students on track.

What's Included

- Interactive virtual training led by Close Up Curriculum & Professional Development Specialists.
- Access to Close Up's *Controversial Issues in the News* digital resource library for one year.
- All materials, including a digital teacher handbook, lesson plans, and classroom materials.
- Certificate of completion eligible for 3 hours of PD credit.*
- Tech support during the session.

Next Steps

To learn more or to schedule professional development for your school or district, please contact a Professional Development Specialist at classroom@closeup.org.

**Please check with your school district in advance to ensure that the PD recertification credit is accepted.*