

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: FRAMING ISSUES FOR DEBATE AND DELIBERATION

90-Minute 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 examine a values framework and apply it in an activity that forms a helpful baseline for future student discussion and understanding.

Modes of Discourse:

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 will take part in a debate model which enables all students to engage critically with a chosen issue and express their opinions clearly and concisely.

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 90 minutes 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.