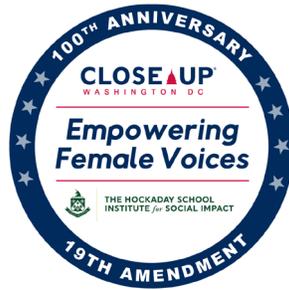


# EMPOWERING FEMALE VOICES: HIGH SCHOOL

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW



Never has there been a more important time for young women to understand the challenges facing our democracy, engage with diverse perspectives, and make their voices heard. This fall, in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, [Close Up](#) and the [Institute for Social Impact](#) will offer **Empowering Female Voices**—a program that will bring together students from all-girls schools nationwide for a series of six online civic engagement workshops leading up to the presidential election.

Students will participate in sessions on political values, learn and deliberate about critical policy issues shaping the 2020 election, and consider ways to activate members of their communities to take action on the issues that matter most to them. By engaging girls from different backgrounds in meaningful dialogue, we aim to help students develop empathy for the perspectives of others and build the skills and confidence to empower a generation of female change-makers.

## PROGRAM SESSIONS

All 60-minute sessions will be led by Close Up Instructors:

**Session 1 - Building Community:** Students will engage in several rounds of facilitated dialogue to build community and understanding. Students will develop a set of norms in order to define and establish their own inclusive learning space online. As part of this process, students will explore and discuss a set of values and ideals, including liberty, equality, private interest, and the common good, to think about how these values can be in tension and to better understand why people disagree.

**Sessions 2-4 - Election Issues:** In this series of three facilitated deliberations, students will develop a deeper understanding of key issues in the 2020 election, connect those issues to longstanding values such as equity and justice, and share and engage with multiple perspectives to build tolerance and open-mindedness. During all issue discussions, students will consider how gender and racial disparities influence social and economic outcomes.

- **Race and Criminal Justice Deliberation:** How can we better understand and address disparities within our criminal justice system?
- **Health Care and Gender Equity Deliberation:** How can we address inequalities of access and care in the United States?
- **Economic Justice Deliberation:** How can we address the structural and institutional barriers that shape economic opportunity for women and People of Color?

**Session 5 - Advocacy and Effective Storytelling:** Students will engage with an activist or community advocate in order to understand the tools of networking, communication, and strategic action that they use to advance their civic and political goals.

**Session 6 - Advocate and Impact your Community:** In small groups, students will develop an action plan to apply what they have learned to make an impact in their own community. Students will also consider how they can continue to engage with and support each other as they seek to impact their communities.

*The anniversary of the women's suffrage movement offers an unparalleled opportunity to commemorate a milestone of democracy and to explore its relevance to the issues of equal rights today. While this did not grant suffrage to all women, it was an important milestone in the advancement of equality, a journey that we continue on today.*

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### About Close Up

Established in 1971, [Close Up](#) is a non-profit, non-partisan civic education organization dedicated to helping students develop the knowledge and skills they need to become informed, active, and engaged citizens. Close Up's resources and programs offer students a balanced and multi-partisan look at controversial issues by using a selection of primary sources drawn from decision-makers and experts on all parts of the political spectrum. Close Up Instructors have over 120 hours of curriculum and methodology training and are experts in facilitating student discussions around controversial issues. Each year, Close Up helps thousands of students and teachers across the nation engage in civil discourse and take informed action in their communities.

### About the Institute for Social Impact

The [Hockaday Institute for Social Impact](#) represents a distinctive and innovative approach among K-12 schools, using the power of engaged, hands-on learning to prepare students for leadership in their communities, workplaces, and society. Through both new and longstanding partnerships with Dallas-area organizations, the Institute allows students to engage with diverse partners, learn from civic leaders, tackle projects with community impact, and put their creative ideas into action for lasting social benefit.

### Teacher Resources

To ensure that educators feel confident and prepared to support students throughout the sessions, this program provides teachers with an invaluable professional development training session, as well as balanced, comprehensive resources to use in the classroom:

- **On-demand Training (Optional):** The 60-minute, on-demand training session will show teachers how to use Close Up's nonpartisan techniques and materials to facilitate respectful classroom discussion.
- **Digital Resources:** Teachers will also receive six months of access to Controversial Issues in the News, Close Up's digital library of issue discussions, lesson plans, activities, and assessments that take a measured, multipartisan look at many of the issues dominating the 2020 election.

### Eligibility & Cost

The program is intended for girls in grades 9-12 and can be integrated into a current government or civics course, advisory program, club, or leadership development opportunity like student council. During this time of social distancing, the series can also replace a capstone project, experiential learning trip, or community service opportunity.

Pricing is available for individual students, classrooms or student groups, and entire grades:

- **Individual Student (for 1-14 students):** \$175 per student
- **Classroom or Student Group (15-25 students):** \$3,500 per classroom/student group
- **Grade Level (over 75 students):** \$12,000 per grade

For questions about financial aid opportunities, please email [programsupport@closeup.org](mailto:programsupport@closeup.org).

### Session Dates and Times

**National Program:** Empowering Female Voices | Every Thursday afternoon from October 1 through November 5, 2020  
(Each school will be paired with other schools nationwide for their one-hour discussion sessions offered between 2-8pm EST.)

When you register for the program, we will ask you to indicate your preferred meeting time(s) so we can schedule your sessions. If you are interested in customized dates, for a program that will only include participants from your school, please reach out to us at [programsupport@closeup.org](mailto:programsupport@closeup.org).

### Registration

For more information or to register a group, please visit our [website](#).