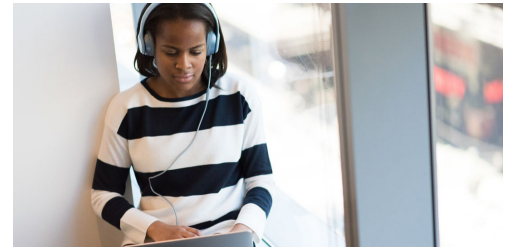
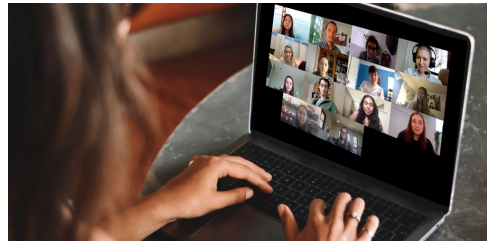


STUDENT VOICES: ELECTION 2020

PROGRAM OVERVIEW



Never has there been a more important time for young people to connect across distance and divides, engage with diverse perspectives, and understand the key issues shaping an election. We know that young people want to be part of the national conversation and are eager to learn about and discuss current issues and the world around them. Close Up's *Student Voices* program provides middle and high school students with the exciting opportunity to talk with other students from across the country and provides teachers with the resources they need to continue the conversation in the virtual classroom.

Student Program Sessions

During four online sessions led by Close Up instructors, students will meet, interact, and deliberate with a diverse group of peers from other parts of the country. Each 45-minute session will encourage students to consider multiple perspectives and deepen their understanding of how public policies affect local communities.

Session 1 – Building Community: In order to create an inclusive and respectful space for discussing high-stakes election issues, Close Up will facilitate dialogue between students from different backgrounds and schools to build a cohesive online community. By examining a series of long-standing political values (such as liberty, equality, private interests, and the common good), students will experience how values come into tension and develop greater understanding of why people disagree.

Sessions 2, 3 & 4 - Election Issue Discussions: Newly connected and working together in an online community of diverse viewpoints, students will examine three major election issues, discuss which party and which candidate(s) best represent their opinions on the issues, decide how important a candidate's views on the issues are when deciding who to vote for, and develop their own ideas of how to best address the issues.

- **Election Issue Discussion – Health Care and COVID-19:** How can the government best combat the COVID-19 pandemic? Which health care reforms, if any, are needed?
- **Election Issue Discussion – The Economy:** Which government policies would most effectively put Americans back to work and get the economy back on track?
- **Election Issue Discussion – Criminal Justice:** How should the government address issues related to criminal justice in this country?

Program Resources for Teachers

To ensure that educators feel confident and prepared to support students both before and after the Close Up-led issue discussions, 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:** 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 of election issues.
- **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, bipartisan look at many of the issues dominating the 2020 election.

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Program Details

What is the cost and what is included in the program?

The *Student Voices* program costs \$800 per classroom and includes:

- Four student discussions hosted online and facilitated by Close Up Instructors
- A pre-recorded professional development training for educators on how to frame controversial issues in the classroom
- Access to Close Up's [Controversial Issues in the News](#) digital library for 6 months

Is the program designed for a particular grade level?

The program is designed for middle school and high school students.

- Middle school program is for grades 6-8
- High school program is for grades 9-12

When will the student discussions take place?

The discussion series will be offered between September 14 – October 30, 2020. There will be separate discussions for middle school students and for high school students. When educators sign up for the program, we will ask you to indicate your preferred time(s) of day and we will do our best to accommodate your school schedule. If we are unable to offer the program at a time that works for you during the school day, we will offer a session at the end of the school day as well.

Who are Close Up Instructors?

[Close Up Instructors](#) have over 120 hours of curriculum and methodology training and are experts in facilitating student discussions around controversial issues.

What kinds of resources will Close Up provide students and are they nonpartisan?

Close Up's resources and programs offer students a balanced and multi-partisan look at controversial issues by using a selection of primary sources (speeches, op-eds, videos, current legislation) drawn from decision-makers and experts on all parts of the political spectrum. Students will be provided with resources to carefully consider both sides of an issue before developing their own opinion. To see sample resources, [click here](#).

What are the educational outcomes of the program?

- **Deeper understanding** of the major political parties and candidates;
- **Greater knowledge** of issues being debated by candidates and voters;
- **Increased confidence** in ability to understand and discuss politics; and
- **Constructive and respectful engagement** with differing perspectives.

How do I sign up?

To register your classroom(s), please visit our [website](#).