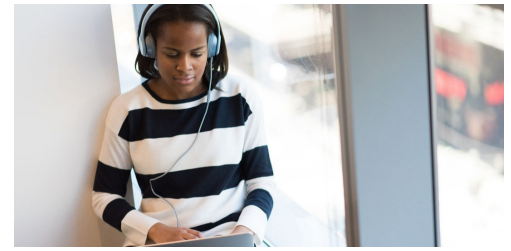


STUDENT VOICES: ELECTION REFLECTION SERIES

PROGRAM OVERVIEW



As a young person, how can you stay active, involved, and engaged after a consequential election? Which issues raised in the 2020 presidential race are most important to you? How can you make a genuine impact on those issues at the local, state, or federal level?

Close Up's *Election Reflection Series* will help students contextualize the campaigns and elections of 2020, make sense of the arguments they heard from the candidates, and focus on what comes next. They will consider the different perspectives of their peers from across the country, and explore the ways in which people, campaigns, and the media contribute to the outcomes of elections. Students will also begin to formulate a vision of themselves as empowered citizens who have the skills and ideas that are necessary to make a difference, both in and between elections.

Student Program Sessions

Session 1 – Building an Inclusive Community: In order to create a respectful space for discussing complex issues, Close Up will facilitate dialogue between students from different backgrounds to build a cohesive online community. By examining a series of long-standing political values (such as liberty, equality, order, and justice), students will develop a greater understanding of why people disagree.

Session 2 – Understanding Competing Priorities: Students will consider the different visions for America's future offered by the presidential candidates and consider which values and priorities most closely align with their own beliefs. How do these issues affect you and your community?

Session 3 – Examining the Influence of Media in Politics: Students will examine political advertisements produced by various campaigns and candidates in 2020 in order to reflect on the current climate of polarization and the ways in which people influence the political debate. What role does new media play in campaigns and elections?

Session 4 – Making Your Voice Heard: Students will explore case studies of young people engaging in electoral politics, whether by volunteering for a campaign, completing an internship, or running for elected office. How can you make your voice heard in future elections?

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 30-minute, on-demand training session will show teachers how to use Close Up's nonpartisan techniques and materials to facilitate respectful classroom discussion of current issues.
- **Digital Resources:** Teachers will also receive year-long 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 today's most pressing topics.

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Program Details

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

The Student Voices program costs \$900 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; and
- Access to Close Up's *Controversial Issues in the News* digital library for the school year.

Is the program designed for a particular grade level?

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

- The middle school program is for grades 6-8.
- The high school program is for grades 9-12.

When will the student discussions take place?

The discussion series will be offered throughout November and December. There will be separate discussions for middle school students and for high school students. When educators sign up for the program, your Close Up Representative will work with you to determine your availability and 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 bipartisan 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](#).

How do I sign up?

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