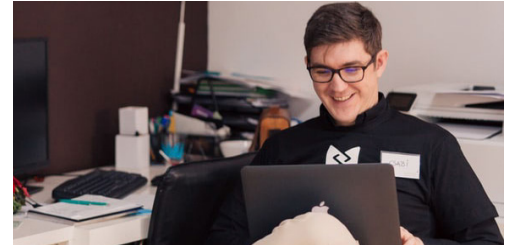


# STUDENT VOICES: THE PRESIDENT'S FIRST 100 DAYS

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW



In Close Up's *First 100 Days Series*, students will examine the role of the executive branch and the agenda of the president, share their own priorities and come to understand the ways in which ordinary people can influence the nation's roadmap for the future. During four online sessions led by Close Up instructors, students will meet, interact, and deliberate with groups of their 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.

## 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 the Executive Branch:** Students will examine the role of the executive branch in shaping public policy, as well as the evolution of that role throughout history. They will discuss the appropriate balance of power between the branches of government, and consider the part that people and media play in shaping each branch.

**Session 3 – The President's First 100 Days:** Students will study historical examples of presidents, both newly elected and newly reelected, who have taken significant action in their first 100 days. They will then turn to the agenda and goals of the current president, and take a look at who and what influences that agenda.

**Session 4 – Student Voices:** Students will weigh in on the issues that they want to see prioritized in the new administration, and examine how those priorities reflect their own values, backgrounds, and communities. They will then consider the actions they can take to make their voices and priorities heard among friends, family, and decision-makers.

## 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 January and February. 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](#).