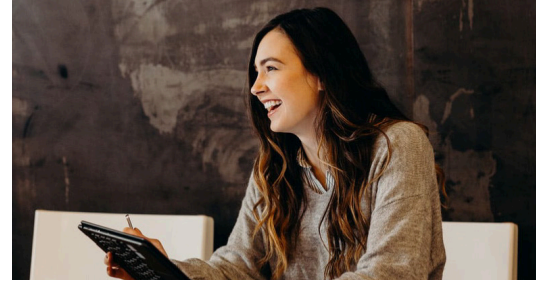
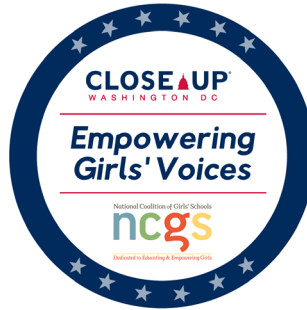


# EMPOWERING GIRLS' VOICES: JUSTICE, EQUITY, AND BELONGING

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW



The health and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the nationwide protests sparked by the killing of George Floyd compel the nation to grapple with questions about gender, race, class, and equity in policy debates in Washington, D.C., in state capitals, and in local governments. Now more than ever, young people want to play a pivotal role in our national dialogue about these challenging issues.

*Empowering Girls' Voices: Justice, Equity, and Belonging* will give girls from across the country an opportunity to build the knowledge, skills, and competencies needed to promote justice and equity. Students will deliberate about the political and structural barriers to equity that exist in the justice, health, economic, and education systems, and consider ways to activate members of their communities to take action on the issues that matter most to them. By engaging young people from communities nationwide in meaningful dialogue, we aim to help students develop empathy for the perspectives of others and build the skills and confidence needed to empower a generation of change-makers.

### Program Sessions

Each 75-minute, synchronous session will be led by Close Up facilitators:

**Session 1 – Building Community and Connecting the Personal to the Political:** Students will share their stories, experiences, and ideas about race, equity, and justice through the creation of a community timeline. They will connect the themes and patterns that emerge in the timeline to broader political, social, and economic issues, and begin to consider the role of young people.

**Session 2 – Examining Values and Priorities:** In order to better understand why people disagree, students will explore a set of values and ideals, including liberty, equality, private interests, and the common good. They will then apply those values to current controversial issues in our country.

**Sessions 3 and 4 – Deliberating on Pressing Issues:** Students will develop a deeper understanding of complex policy challenges facing the nation, connect those issues to long-standing values such as equity and justice, and share and engage with multiple perspectives to build tolerance and open-mindedness. Students will discuss two of the following topics:

- **Health Care and COVID-19:** COVID-19 has shown the ways in which social and economic factors affect health outcomes in the United States. How should we address inequalities of access and care?
- **Justice System:** In the wake of nationwide protests, how should we address racial injustice in this country and reform the criminal justice system?
- **Educational Equity:** How can we address inequalities of access and opportunity for students in the United States?
- **Economic Justice:** How can we address the structural and institutional barriers that shape economic opportunity for women and people of color in the United States?

**Session 5 – Activism and Effective Storytelling:** Students will engage with a community organizer or activist who has led a successful campaign for change in order to understand the tools of networking, communication, and strategic action that they used to advance their civic and political goals.

**Session 6 – Advocating and Impacting the Future:** Students will reflect on the program and consider both the challenges and the necessity of democratic engagement if they hope to create the change they envision. Students will identify everyday actions they can take to advance justice, commit to taking at least one step, and consider how they can continue to act as an informal network of support for each other.

CALL: 800-CLOSE UP (256-7387)

EMAIL: [ncgs@closeup.org](mailto:ncgs@closeup.org)

CONNECT:     

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## PROGRAM DETAILS

### Session Dates and Times

**NCGS National High School Program** | Every Tuesday, April 13 – May 18 from 8:00 – 9:15pm (EST) / 5:00 – 6:15pm (PST)  
(Each school will be combined with other NCGS schools nationwide for their discussion sessions.)

If you are interested in customized dates, for a program that will include participants from your school only, please reach out to us at [ncgs@closeup.org](mailto:ncgs@closeup.org).

### Eligibility and Cost

The program is intended for girls who attend NCGS schools 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 or groups:

- **Cohort of 8 Students:** \$1,350 per NCGS school
- **Individual Price:** \$175 per student

### Registration

Space is limited to 120 students! Please complete this [form](#) or contact [ncgs@closeup.org](mailto:ncgs@closeup.org) to register for the program.

**Note:** Student names are not due until April 6, 2021.

### About Close Up

Established in 1971, [Close Up](#) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan 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 bipartisan 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 National Coalition of Girls' Schools

[NCGS](#) is the leading advocate for girls' schools, connecting and collaborating globally with individuals, schools, and organizations dedicated to educating and empowering girls. NCGS serves across the U.S., Canada, and abroad nearly 260 PK-12 girls' schools (independent, public, charter, religiously affiliated), 26,000 educators, 115,000 students, and over one million alumnae. NCGS supports its member school educators through advocacy, research, professional development, and networking.