

UNDERSTANDING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE: GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES AND LOCAL SOLUTIONS

PROGRAM OVERVIEW



While much of the focus of the modern environmental movement is on addressing the climate crisis, many issues of justice and equity exist just below the surface. In partnership with Riverdale Country School and Buckingham Browne & Nichols School, *Understanding Environmental Justice: Global Perspectives and Local Solutions* will give students the opportunity to explore complex global problems, examine national and international policy solutions, and consider the role that individuals can play as consumers and citizens to make environmental and climate justice possible. This five day program will help students work together to identify and address these environmental justice issues.

Program Sessions

Each 3-hour synchronous session will be led by Close Up facilitators:

Session 1 – Building Community and Understanding the Issues: After a brief orientation and a series of community building activities, students will work together to develop norms to guide deliberation and cooperation. Students will then have a series of discussions prompted by statistics and vignettes that portray aspects of environmental injustice.

Session 2 – Deliberating about National Policies: In these facilitated deliberations, students will develop a deeper understanding of complex energy and environmental challenges facing the nation and will connect those debates to long-standing values such as equity and justice. Students will also hear from a policy expert or government official to learn about the current administration’s policy priorities.

Session 3 – Understanding the Global Context and Priorities: Students will consider the need for global cooperation, review relevant U.N. development goals, and discuss such questions as:

- How can we address issues arising from climate change and the disparate impact of energy policy on poor people and poor nations?
- How are different nations approaching this issue, and what more needs to be done?
- Do some nations bear more responsibility for addressing climate change than others?

Session 4 – Identifying Solutions: Students will work together in small groups to identify one issue discussed during the program that they would like to take action on. In those groups, students will work on presentations or advocacy materials to convince others to take concrete steps.

Session 5 – Practicing Environmental Advocacy: Students will share their presentations with each other and invited guests, will offer each other feedback, and will reflect on the program. Finally, students will deliberate about the ways in which individuals, small institutions (such as schools), and communities can take concrete steps towards environmental justice.

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PROGRAM DETAILS

Program Dates

Understanding Environmental Justice Program | Monday, March 22 - Friday, March 26 from 1-4pm (EST)

Program Tuition & Eligibility

This program is intended for high school students.

Student Price: \$300

Registration

For more information and to sign up for this spring break experience, please complete this [interest form](#).

Registration for the program will close on March 12.

If you have any questions, please email programsupport@closeup.org.

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 multipartisan 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.