



EMPOWERING GIRLS' VOICES

Never has there been a more important time for young women and girls to understand the challenges facing our democracy, engage with diverse perspectives, and make their voices heard. This year, in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, Close Up and the Institute for Social Impact launched **Empowering Girls' Voices**—a program that brings together diverse students nationwide to inspire and empower the next generation of women leaders to lead, inspire, and break glass ceilings.

By engaging young women 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.

Hear what students have to say about their Empowering Girls' Voices experience!

"I absolutely loved learning about **topics I am passionate about** with girls from across the country who feel the same way. The **environment was so welcoming, fun, and collaborative**, even over zoom. I cannot even express how grateful I am for this experience."

– Student, Sacred Heart Greenwich (CT)

"The **most impactful thing** about the Empowering Girls' Voices Program was that it shaped me to be more confident and to ask myself "What can I do?" instead of "Wow, I wish there was something I can do." I felt more **empowered and more confident** as we did each session."

– Student, Irma Lerma Rangel Young Women's Leadership School (TX)

"The fact that this program was exclusively for the young women in this country made these past few weeks **beyond remarkable**. I would have never known how many talented and powerful girls we have in this nation. **I made so many friends** and learned that there are people out there who think like me and not like me."

– Student, Castilleja School (CA)

"I have already recommended it as an **effective program for learning** more about government and providing students a voice. It was important for our community to have a third party, non-partisan organization facilitate **political discussions**."

– Teacher, Woodlands Academy, (IL)

SURVEY DATA

Surveys of high school students who participated on recent Close Up programs revealed dramatic increases in the students' civic knowledge and attitudes.

- Pre-program 54% of students understood how laws are made; post-program results showed 97% of students understanding the law-making process.
- Pre-program, 31% of students felt comfortable discussing their ideas about government with others; post program, 87% of students replied in the affirmative.
- 95% of girls said program helped them feel empowered to use their voice to make change.
- 99% of girls said they would recommend this program to a friend.
- 100% of girls said the program helped them better understand issues facing our country.

CLOSE UP FOUNDATION

The mission of the nonprofit, nonpartisan Close Up Foundation is to inform, inspire, and empower young people to understand and embrace the rights and responsibilities of active citizenship. Since 1971, Close Up has served nearly one million students and teachers from across the country. Close Up partners with more than 1,200 schools and continues to serve more than 21,000 students and teachers from across the country every year.

Over 1,300 girls have participated in EMPOWERING GIRLS' VOICES in the 2020-21 school year!

Contact us to learn more:
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