

IMPACT: DELIBERATING SYSTEMIC ISSUES

Program Overview



Starting in October 2022, Close Up and the National Network of Schools in Partnership will offer *IMPACT: Deliberating Systemic Issues*. Through this virtual program, high school students will develop a deeper understanding of complex policy challenges facing the nation, connect those issues to longstanding values and tensions, and gain a rich understanding of the value of deliberation in a democracy. Students will examine major policy issues, evaluate proposals that represent a range of viewpoints, and consider, as a group, how to best address these issues. After developing a better understanding of their own values and priorities, students will participate in a training to develop the facilitation skills to lead controversial issue discussions in their own school communities.

Session Dates & Times

Deliberating Systemic Issues | Tuesdays & Thursdays after school | October 11-27, 2022 | 8:00-9:15pm (EST) / 5:00-6:15pm (PST)
All sessions will take place on Zoom.

Each school will be combined with other participating 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 contact us at programsupport@closeup.org.

Eligibility & Cost

This program session is exclusively for students in grades 9-12. You may nominate six students to represent your school in an examination of today's most pressing issues with students from across the country.

- **Cohort of 6 Students:** \$1,800
- **Individual Student Price:** \$300

Close Up and NNSP are deeply committed to equity and inclusion. If you require financial assistance, please email us at programsupport@closeup.org.

Registration

To register as a **school cohort**, please [click here](#).

To register as an **individual participant**, please [click here](#).

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. 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 NNSP

The [National Network of Schools in Partnership](#) (NNSP) serves its members by providing implementation support, thought leadership, and advocacy. NNSP believes collaboration and partnerships are central to a strategy for improving equity in educational opportunities. NNSP thrives on the diversity of its members, which include organizations such as: public, charter, and private schools; educational access and enrichment programs; and policy and education reform groups.

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Program Syllabus



Session 1: Introduction to the Program and Community Building

During the first session, students will review the goals of the program and work to create community. Students will develop community guidelines to ensure that they are able to work together successfully and productively. They will also form community by sharing the experiences, people, and/or events that have shaped their ideas about politics through the creation of a community timeline. Students will consider how their own experiences connect to broader political, social, and economic issues.

Session 2: Understanding Political Values

Students will learn how competing values and goals animate American public policy deliberations and begin to understand why it is so difficult for the public to reach agreement. They will identify and begin to evaluate values that are frequently in tension in U.S. political debates and analyze laws on the basis of the values being prioritized.

Session 3: Exploring Multiple Perspectives on an Issue

Students will learn about a controversial issue through a mixture of short videos, a prepared resource, and guided small group discussions that connect their own experiences and communities to the larger national issue. Students will develop initial ideas for addressing the issue and then craft questions for the policy expert panel in Session 4. Finally, students will engage in a mini-deliberation to prioritize the questions for the panel.

Session 4: Policy Expert Panel

Students will engage with a panel of experts who each represent a different political or ideological perspective. Students' questions will drive the panel and allow students to explore the various approaches to solving this issue represented by the differing perspectives.

Session 5: Issue Deliberation

Students will be guided in a deliberation that synthesizes their learning and discussions from the previous two sessions in order to reach a consensus about how best to address the issue. Students in each workshop will share their proposals with the whole program, and students will reflect together on the challenges of deliberation and consensus building.

Session 6: Student Facilitation and Program Reflection

Students will receive training on the skill of discussion facilitation. The goal of the session is for students to learn how to be facilitators so they can go back to their schools to lead an issue deliberation. Students will receive a handbook for student facilitators, resources to guide a deliberation about the program issue, and guidance for setting up a deliberation in their school or community. Finally, students will reflect on the program as a whole and learn about future opportunities to engage in deliberation with Close Up.