

The young people of America are coming of age at a trying time, one that has been too often defined by political polarization and a lack of understanding and cooperation across differences. In this national landscape, the skills and practices of deliberation are more essential than ever. Deliberation is a key to understanding public policy issues from multiple perspectives, to making informed decisions about how to resolve those issues, and to acting cooperatively in the best interests of communities nationwide.

The **Deliberative Democracy Lab at Stanford University (DDL)** has demonstrated the power of deliberation by leading over 150 Deliberative Polls worldwide. Results from Deliberative Polls have demonstrated that deliberation alleviates polarization, moderates opinions, and produces lasting effects on policy opinions, voting intention, and mutual respect. The **Close Up Foundation**, with over 50 years of experience in nonpartisan, issue-centered education, has a track record of engaging young people with diverse perspectives and building the skills of active citizenship in youth across the United States. Together, Close Up and DDL are seeking to embed a culture of deliberative dialogue in middle schools, high schools, and post-secondary institutions across the country.

Building on the momentum of America in One Room: The Youth Vote to help young people engage with public policy issues in a thoughtful and civil manner, Close Up and DDL are expanding on this historic gathering through ongoing and continuous national online deliberations for students. This recurring annual initiative fosters critical thinking, reasoned dialogue, and informed citizenship among young people, with the potential to build the vital skills of deliberation in generations to come.

National Online Deliberations

Beginning in the fall of 2024, Close Up and DDL will host semiannual deliberations that take place virtually using Stanford's AI-assisted Online Deliberation Platform. Each event will include 60 minutes of deliberation followed by a 60-minute plenary session with experts and policymakers.

The national online deliberations will engage students across the country in small-group discussions and plenary sessions with expert panelists answering key questions from participants. Students will explore a broad range of policy options, weigh competing arguments, hear and learn from an array of perspectives, and come away with their own considered opinions.

Close Up and DDL expect thousands of students from across the country to join these deliberations. To date, there are close to 3,000 high school and post-secondary students interested in participating this fall. Our organizations are actively promoting these events within our networks.

Dates for upcoming national online deliberations include:

Friday, October 25
High School Deliberation



Saturday, October 26
Post-Secondary Deliberation



Friday, December 6
Middle School Deliberation



To prepare educators nationwide to bring deliberation into their schools, Close Up has designed comprehensive professional development and classroom materials that give teachers the framework, facilitation skills, and resources to host their own deliberations. By providing educators with a framework for deliberation and follow-up activities, Close Up is ensuring that teachers and students have the resources, skills, and strategies they need to make deliberation an everyday practice in communities nationwide.

About the Close Up Foundation

Close Up is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, civic education organization that informs, inspires, and empowers young people to become active citizens. Since 1971, we have partnered with school districts nationwide to serve more than one million students and educators through experiential learning programs in our nation's capital and in local communities, professional development, and curriculum design and consulting. Our goal is to connect what students learn in class to the real world around them and help them articulate their own views, listen to those of others, and engage with people of different backgrounds with tolerance and understanding. To learn more, visit www.CloseUp.org.

About the Deliberative Democracy Lab at Stanford University

DDL is devoted to research about democracy and public opinion obtained through Deliberative Polling®. The method of Deliberative Polling has been used in over 50 countries around the world through over 150 projects, at varying levels of government and society. To learn more, visit <https://deliberation.stanford.edu/>.