



CLOSE UP[®]

WASHINGTON DC

The Nation's Leader
in Civic Education,
Classroom Discourse,
and Community
Engagement





ABOUT CLOSE UP

The Close Up Foundation is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, civic education organization that helps young people develop the skills and knowledge of active citizenship. Since 1971, we have partnered with school districts nationwide to serve more than one million students and educators through experiential learning, professional development, curriculum design, and deliberative dialogue. We design, plan, and implement civic and community engagement programming to connect what students learn in class to the real world around them.

With young people coming of age in a polarized political world, it is vital to help them learn to talk to people of different backgrounds and perspectives with tolerance and understanding. Here's how we do it.



DID YOU KNOW? Only 22% of eighth-graders are proficient in civics.

SOURCE: 2022 NAEP IN CIVICS

WHY CHOOSE CLOSE UP

> Professional Development

Close Up is helping schools, districts, and entire educational networks build the skills of civil discourse to foster reasoned deliberation at a time of political polarization. We have built our PD workshops on **half a century of expertise in facilitating discourse** around political and social issues, giving teachers the tools to lead productive classroom discussions, act as nonpartisan facilitators, and build students' civic and media literacy.

In this age of rapidly shifting state policies, our PD offers educators:

- A **customizable**, nonpartisan approach;
- **Comprehensive** training and techniques;
- **Ready-to-use** classroom materials; and
- The **opportunity** to encourage thoughtful citizens who know how to appreciate their differences.

> Curriculum Design & Consulting

For over 50 years, Close Up has worked with thousands of public, private, and charter schools to create civic and community engagement curriculum. We help educators **meet school, district, and state initiatives through a nonpartisan approach** that integrates issue-centered education, multiple perspectives, and other proven practices.



Close Up facilitated PD workshops for 6,500+ educators across the U.S. (2024-25)



“

I can say with certainty that your work with our faculty and student leaders helped the school navigate the challenges of this election and teach civics and civil discourse skills.

CATHY MCGEHEE | HEAD OF FOXCROFT SCHOOL, VA

> Experiential Learning Programs

Close Up programs take place in the nation's capital and in communities nationwide, giving high school and middle school students a **hands-on civic education experience**. Students visit historical landmarks, meet with elected officials, and engage in discussions, deliberations, and simulations facilitated by highly trained program instructors.

- **Washington, D.C.** | Experience U.S. government in action
- **Local, State, or National Youth Summit** | Network with young leaders to create action agendas
- **NextGen Roundtable** | Practice the skills of deliberation
- **Special Focus** | Concentrate on a theme or constituency
- **Summer Enrichment** | Improve student performance and core skills
- **Partnership** | Align with your organization's mission

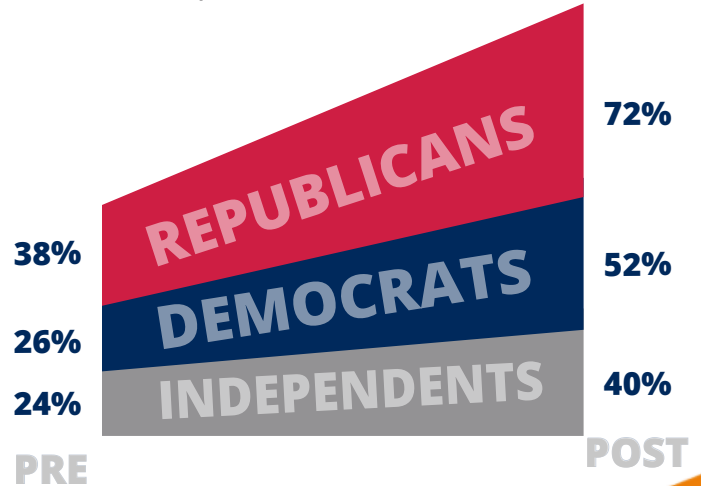


DELIBERATIVE DIALOGUE

Deliberation is a common theme in Close Up programming, as participants **listen to different perspectives, weigh competing arguments, and work together toward consensus** and collaborative solutions to policy issues. Through our NextGen Roundtable series of summits, PD, and classroom materials, students learn and practice the skills of deliberation and increase their sense of efficacy and mutual respect in the process.

After engaging in deliberation, students' satisfaction with U.S. democracy significantly increased.

SOURCE: AMERICA IN ONE ROOM:
THE YOUTH VOTE, 2024



Deliberative strategies used by Close Up can help reduce partisan divisions among students.

RESEARCH PUBLISHED BY
DR. PAULA MCAVOY (NC STATE) AND
DR. GREGORY MCAVOY (UNC GREENSBORO)

WORK WITH US!



CLOSE UP
WASHINGTON DC

CLOSE UP IS ENDORSED BY:  **SYTA**
The Voice of Student & Youth Travel®



www.CloseUp.org | info@closeup.org

800-CLOSE UP (256-7387)

CST-1002082-40 Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.