



APRIL 17, 2026 | CLOSE UP HQ | ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA

At a time when government and current events touch every part of our lives, true civic education must move beyond memorizing facts and towards the development of durable skills. Using our 50+ years of experience in working with young people from all backgrounds, the Close Up Foundation has developed the [Civil Discourse Credential](#) on that principle.

The credential guides high school students through exercises, activities, and experiences to develop highly needed durable skills such as critical thinking, communication, media and AI literacy, and the ability to productively engage with multiple perspectives. It focuses on three domains: **(1) Analyzing Political and Social Issues;** **(2) Communicating Across Difference;** and **(3) Digital Citizenship and Media Literacy.** Within each domain are competencies and rubrics that outline learner progressions, as well as supporting curriculum and assessments to guide and evaluate students' development as they build mastery. Progress is tracked through a Learning Record hosted by Mastery Transcript Consortium (MTC), an ETS company.

REGISTER TODAY!



TRAINING INSTITUTE OVERVIEW

Join Close Up for a one-day training institute to gain an understanding of, model, and practice the credential lessons and activities and learn how to implement this transformative program in your classroom or co-curricular activities. You'll have the chance to explore the theoretical and empirical foundations of the credential approach, examine the competencies and rubrics, gain an understanding of the prepared curriculum, review the suggested assignments that teachers can use, and explore the tools for students and educators available in the MTC portal.

INSTITUTE DETAILS

Date & Time: April 17, 2026 | 8:00am-4:00pm
Location: Close Up HQ, 671 N. Glebe Road, Suite 900, Arlington, VA 22203
Cost: \$375 per educator. This includes materials, lunch, and the opportunity to join the cohort of educators piloting the credential beginning in fall 2026.

SAMPLE SCHEDULE

8:00am **Welcome and Overview of the Civil Discourse Credential**
8:30am **Framework for Civil Discourse & Deliberation**
10:15am **Domain Exploration: Analyzing Political and Social Issues**
11:30am **Domain Exploration: Communicating Across Difference**
12:30pm Lunch
1:30pm **Domain Exploration: Digital Citizenship and Media Literacy**
2:45pm **MTC Platform, Next Steps, and Reflection**
4:00pm End of Day

ABOUT CLOSE UP

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.