



BECOME A STUDENT MODERATOR JULY 8-11, 2026



Interested in helping first-time voters engage with diverse perspectives and build the skills of critical thinking and civil discourse?

Join the Close Up Foundation, the Stanford University Deliberative Democracy Lab, Generation Lab, and the Hoover Institution's Center for Revitalizing American Institutions as a trained facilitator at [NextGen Roundtable: Decision 2026](#), a nationwide deliberation of 400 first-time voters this July 8-11 in Washington, D.C.!

We're looking for college students to train and work alongside Close Up instructors to facilitate small-group deliberations! To take part, you must attend a half-day training on July 8 and be available to facilitate on July 9-10.

THE MODERATOR EXPERIENCE

NextGen Roundtable: Decision 2026 will bring together a scientific and nationally representative sample of 400 young Americans from all 50 states. For four days, these first-time voters from diverse backgrounds will deliberate policy issues in small groups in a civil and substantive fashion, gain insights from balanced panels of policy experts, and contribute their opinions to an impact report published nationwide.

As a moderator, you'll work alongside Close Up staff to facilitate thoughtful discussion by posing questions, guiding Q&As, and ensuring that diverse themes and viewpoints are considered. No prior experience or policy expertise is required, just a commitment to helping young people think critically and engage thoughtfully across differences.

For facilitating, you'll earn:

- A stipend of \$1,000.
- Close Up's [Deliberative Dialogue Facilitator Badge](#), a shareable record of your skills in communication, active listening, and navigating differing viewpoints

**Please note that Close Up cannot cover travel expenses or hotel accommodations.*

ARE YOU INTERESTED?

To participate, *you must*:

- Be available for an online orientation, a half-day of in-person training (July 8), and two full days of in-person facilitating (July 9-10).
- Be comfortable facilitating group discussions such as focus groups.
- Be able to remain neutral and withhold your own opinions while creating a good atmosphere for discussion.
- Have excellent skills in speaking, reading, and writing the English language.
- Successfully complete a background check.

Fill out [our short interest form](#) to get started! Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis through April 30.

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.