

# TAKING CLOSE UP HOME

## CLOSE UP WASHINGTON



Thank you for helping your student take part in our hands-on, interactive program in Washington, DC! Dedicated teachers and parents are key to making the Close Up experience possible.

At Close Up, we strive to give students the tools for a lifetime of informed and engaged citizenship. Studies show that students who have discussions about current events with their parents have higher levels of political efficacy and stronger commitments to becoming effective and informed citizens. However, we recognize that it can sometimes be difficult to talk with your high school student about politics.

Below you will find questions and resources to help you learn about your student's Close Up experience and to help them continue their learning at home by engaging with issues that are important to them.

### "DINNER TABLE" QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER FOR YOUR STUDENT:

- **What bill(s) did you discuss in Mock Congress? Did the bill(s) pass or fail, and why?**

If you and your student are interested in tracking legislation and sharing your opinion with legislators and other citizens here are some great websites to help you do just that:

- **Countable** catalogs every bill currently in Congress, lets you weigh in on current issues, and helps you contact your Representative. [www.countable.us/](http://www.countable.us/)
  - **Popvox** explains current legislation in Congress and allows you to see how other citizens feel about the issues and why. You can also add your opinion to the discussion. [www.popvox.com/](http://www.popvox.com/)
  - **Library of Congress** allows you to search for bills based on your area of interest and track the legislation through the committee process. The site also serves as a platform to locate your Members of Congress. <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/thomas.php>
- **Who did you meet with on Capitol Hill Day and what did you talk about with them? What was your favorite part of Capitol Hill Day?**  
**Learn more about Congress here:**
    - [www.House.gov](http://www.House.gov)
    - [www.Senate.gov](http://www.Senate.gov)
  - **Which youth issue did you pick to discuss on Monday night, and what was it like to have a discussion with students from around the country? What surprised you about that experience, and what did you learn?**
  - **What were your roommates like? What was your workshop or Program Instructor (PI) like? What was it like to learn with other students from around the country?**
  - **On Thursday night during workshop, what did you write down personally to start, stop and continue to improve your political efficacy? Ask your student to review what they wrote or learned in their Close Up Student Notebook.**

Thank you again for your support of Close Up and for encouraging your student to get involved in government, politics, and current issues. For the most up-to-date information on civic education and Close Up programming, please follow us @CloseUp\_DC and like us on Facebook at "Close Up Educational Programs". Please also encourage your student to join our alumni network at [www.CloseUp.org/about/alumni-network/](http://www.CloseUp.org/about/alumni-network/).