

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE: NAVIGATING POLARIZATION, DELIBERATION, AND CIVIL DISCOURSE

American democracy is facing a number of significant challenges, and those challenges do not simply stop at the schoolhouse doors. Experts, leaders, and everyday citizens are expressing worry that democracy—both at home and abroad—may be in decline, while public opinion surveys routinely show Americans' lack of faith in their government, the media, and each other. In this setting, high-quality civic education—rich with inquiry, deliberation, and dialogue—is more challenging and more necessary than ever.

Stanford's Center for Deliberative Democracy and Close Up are offering an immersive professional development institute for a select group of secondary social studies educators eager to navigate this complex landscape. The Summer Institute is designed for educators who want to improve the quality of deliberations and inquiries in their classrooms, increase their students' civic and political understanding and sophistication, and lead the charge for civic education in their schools and districts.

Institute Overview

Dates: Monday, July 19 – Friday, July 23 and Monday, July 26 – Wednesday, July 28, 2021.
All sessions will run from 1pm – 4pm EST | 10am – 1pm PST

Over the course of 8-sessions, educators will:

- Conduct in-depth explorations of democratic and deliberation theory and apply those theories to analyze the current state of U.S. democracy;
- Examine research on best practices in deliberation, dialogue, and civic education and connect this understanding to the civic goals of schools and classrooms;
- Consider the obstacles, like polarization, mistrust, and diversity of classrooms that make these conversations and deliberative democracy difficult;
- Receive, examine, and adapt resources for teaching with pressing political issues; and
- Develop strategies for enriching civic education efforts in their own schools and districts.

Major questions addressed by the Summer Institute include:

- How can teachers engage students productively in dialogue and deliberation?
- How can teachers overcome challenges posed by partisanship, polarization, and “fake” news?
- How can teachers help students develop students' political ideas and identities?
- What does it mean to be a “good” citizen?

Participants will receive:

- **Continuing Education Units (CEUs):** The institute includes approximately 24 contact hours and an additional 8-10 hours of curriculum work that qualify for CEUs. Close Up typically grants one CEU for every 10 hours, however, different schools and districts often have their own rules concerning how CEUs are accepted.
- **Resources:** Participants will receive resources for teaching with current issues, facilitating deliberation, and engaging students in civic life. This includes access to Close Up's *Controversial Issues in the News* digital library (which includes lesson plans and current issue discussions published monthly for the classroom.)
- **Institute Materials:** All Summer Institute readings and materials are included in the fee.

Lead Faculty:

[Alice Siu](#), Associate Director, Center for Deliberative Democracy at Stanford

[Scot Wilson](#), Doctoral Candidate at Indiana University & Close Up Curriculum Consultant

Application Details

Institute Cost & Application Deadline: You will need to complete an application and submit a letter of support by May 15. *Close Up and Stanford are committed to equity and inclusion, [contact us](#) for financial aid information.*

- Successful candidates will be notified by May 31, 2021.
- Cost: \$850 per educator.

Eligibility & Application Process: Please read this section closely to confirm that you are eligible to attend and that you complete your application properly.

- Application can be found [here](#).
- 20 - 30 educators from across the country will be accepted for the Summer Institute.
- Admission is based on a competitive application process.
- Applicants must:
 - Teach or supervise secondary (grades 6-12) social studies or related content areas
 - Commit to attend all [8 sessions](#) (**Week 1: July 19-23 & Week 2: July 26-28; 1-4pm EST**)
- In addition to the online application, applicants must submit to a **letter of support** from your principal or supervisor. Letters of support should:
 - Convey the supervisor's approval for attendance,
 - Highlight the applicant's strengths and contributions to the school,
 - And confirm a need for this type of training in your school or district.

About Us

Stanford's Center for Deliberative Democracy (CDD): The [Center for Deliberative Democracy at Stanford University](#) is housed in the Department of Communication. The CDD is devoted to research about democracy and public opinion obtained through Deliberative Polling. The method of Deliberative Polling has been used in 30 countries around the world through over 110 projects, at varying levels of government and society.

Close Up Foundation: Established in 1971, [Close Up](#) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan civic education organization dedicated to helping students develop the knowledge and skills they need to become informed, active, and engaged citizens. Close Up's resources and programs offer students a balanced and multi-partisan look at controversial issues by using a selection of primary sources drawn from decision-makers and experts on all parts of the political spectrum.