

IMPACT: CREATING YOUTH ADVOCATES

HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM OVERVIEW



A major focus of education is preparing young people for their roles as citizens in a democracy. Now more than ever, young people want to play a pivotal role in developing solutions and addressing inequities in the United States. During the 2021-22 school year, Close Up & the National Network of Schools in Partnership (NNSP) will bring together students from across the country to build the tools and knowledge to meaningfully engage with systemic issues and become catalysts for effective change in their communities.

Over the course of the program, students will deliberate about pressing national issues; explore the political and structural barriers to equity in our country; deepen understanding of existing campaigns for change; and work together to create meaningful solutions. By engaging young people from communities nationwide in meaningful dialogue, we aim to help students develop empathy for the perspectives of others and build the skills and confidence needed to empower a generation of change-makers.

2021-2022 Program Sessions

SERIES 1 – DELIBERATING SYSTEMIC ISSUES

How can you engage on controversial issues that matter to you and build empathy for diverse ideas and perspectives?

Six online synchronous 75-minute sessions starting September 30, 2021

Students will develop a deeper understanding of complex policy challenges facing the nation, connect those issues to long-standing values and tensions, and gain a rich understanding of the value of deliberation in a democracy. Students will examine three major policy issues, evaluate proposals that represent a range of viewpoints, and consider, as a group, how to best address these issues. After developing a better understanding of their own values and priorities, students will participate in a training to develop the facilitation skills to lead controversial issue discussions in their own school communities.

SERIES 2 – RACE, JUSTICE, AND EQUITY

How can you create positive, systemic change in your school or local community?

Six online synchronous 75-minute sessions starting January 25, 2022

Students will engage in inquiry and deliberation on an issue of their choice in order to understand the political and structural barriers to equity in our systems of education, health, and justice. Students will investigate root causes; identify various approaches taken at the local, state, and national levels; engage with a policy advocate; and create a vision statement that incorporates their personal experiences and tangible action steps they can take within their school or local community.

INSTITUTE FOR DELIBERATIVE DEMOCRACY

What if, instead of looking to others for leadership, young people stepped up to communicate and compromise across differences in an effort to address societal challenges?

In-person, Washington, DC, June 2022

Join us this summer in Washington, DC, at the Institute for Deliberative Democracy! Deepen your understanding of the characteristics and causes of pressing national issues, participate in a program-wide deliberation led by Stanford's Center for Deliberative Democracy, work in small groups to create meaningful solutions, develop a cohesive Youth Agenda for Action, and meet with public officials to advocate for your proposals. Please [click here](#) for additional program details and to apply.

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HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM DETAILS

Program Eligibility

The programming is open to students in grades 9-12. Each school will have an opportunity to nominate a cohort of six students to represent their school in an examination of today's most pressing issues with students from across the country. We recommend that students participate in both online programs; however, we understand that students have many commitments and that it may only be possible to participate in one series.

In order to be eligible for the Youth Policy Summit in Washington, DC, students must attend at least one of the online sessions.

If you are interested in custom dates for an entire grade or course, please email us at programsupport@closeup.org.

Program Dates & Cost

Series 1: Deliberating Systemic Issues

Tuesdays & Thursdays after school | September 30-October 14, 2021 | 8:00-9:15pm (EST) / 5:00-6:15pm (PST)

On Tuesday November 16, 2021, a final reflection and debrief will take place following student facilitated discussions at their schools.

- **Cohort of 6 Students:** \$1200 (Close Up & NNSP Member Price)
- **Individual Student Price:** \$250

Series 2: Race, Justice, and Equity

Tuesdays & Thursdays after school | January 25 - February 10, 2022 | 8:00-9:15pm (EST) / 5:00-6:15pm (PST)

- **Cohort of 6 Students:** \$1200 (Close Up & NNSP Member Price)
- **Individual Student Price:** \$250

Institute for Deliberative Democracy

Monday, June 20 - Friday, July 1, 2022

- **Individual Student Price:** \$4,750

Close Up and NNSP are deeply committed to equity and inclusion. If you require financial assistance, please contact Close Up at programsupport@closeup.org.

Registration

To register, please visit our [website](#).

About Close Up

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. Each year, Close Up helps thousands of students and teachers across the nation engage in civil discourse and take informed action in their communities.

About NNSP

The [National Network of Schools in Partnership](#) (NNSP) serves its members by providing implementation support, thought leadership, and advocacy. NNSP believes collaboration and partnerships are central to a strategy for improving equity in educational opportunities. NNSP thrives on the diversity of its members, which include organizations such as: public, charter and private schools; educational access and enrichment programs; and policy and education reform groups.