

A DAY OF DELIBERATIVE DIALOGUE

Close Up Foundation and Georgetown Day School

Saturday, October 5, 2024 | 9:00am - 3:45pm

Young people across the country are coming of age at a trying time, one that has been too often defined by political polarization and a lack of understanding and cooperation across differences. In this national landscape, the skills and practices of civil discourse and deliberative dialogue are more essential than ever. Deliberation is a key to understanding public policy issues from multiple perspectives, to making informed decisions about how to resolve those issues, and to acting cooperatively in the best interests of communities nationwide.

Join Close Up, the Deliberative Democracy Lab (DDL) at Stanford University, and Georgetown Day School as we bring together students from across Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia for a timely, one-day workshop at Georgetown Day School to engage in deliberative dialogue.

Students will deliberate on policy issues—both on the community and national levels—that matter to them, hear and learn from an array of perspectives, weigh competing arguments, and come away with their own carefully considered opinions.

WHO

High schools from Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia are encouraged to send a cohort of 10-15 students from their school to this workshop. Each school must send at least one adult chaperone with their students.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

Close Up staff will guide the whole group through an introduction to deliberation and its important role in solving community issues. They will also serve as facilitators during the small-group deliberations of community and policy issues and lead the entire group to reflect on the deliberative process to wrap up the day. After the event, students will join Close Up's Civic Ambassador program, providing them with the tools and strategies to be civic leaders in their own schools and communities.

SAMPLE SCHEDULE

9:00am - **Registration**

9:30am - **Opening Remarks:** What value does deliberation bring to a community and individuals? Close Up will lead an introduction to build context and rationale for the event.

10:15am - **Community Deliberation:** In small groups, students will consider a challenging community scenario and work together to prioritize solutions.

11:30am - **Lunch** (Provided by Georgetown Day School)

12:30pm - **Policy Deliberation:** In small groups, students will consider a series of policy proposals on a particular issue (e.g. economic issues) and form questions to ask expert panelists.

2:00pm - **Panel with Policy Experts:** Policy experts from different political perspectives will answer questions students formed during their policy deliberations.

3:00pm - **Wrap-Up and Reflection**

3:45pm - **End of Event**

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. Our goal is to connect what students learn in class to the real world around them and help them articulate their own views, listen to those of others, and engage with people of different backgrounds with tolerance and understanding.