

CIVIL DISCOURSE LAB

WASHINGTON, D.C.



GRAPPLING WITH THE DISCOMFORT OF PLURALISM | JULY 28 - 30, 2025

As corporations and universities navigate changing policies and attitudes related to former DEI initiatives, independent school leaders will inevitably face similar challenges and need to address them. At this year's **Civil Discourse Lab**, school leaders will explore best practices and the principles of open inquiry and dialogue while examining how efforts to foster inclusivity, broaden perspectives, and promote opportunities for all connect to preparing young people to participate in a thriving, diverse, and pluralistic democracy.

How can schools equip students with the skills to **engage with multiple perspectives with respect** for the opinions of others that make them uncomfortable? If schools commit to building a proactive culture of deliberation, what kind of training is necessary to prepare faculty and the broader school community to navigate this work regardless of the political climate?

AUDIENCE: The Civil Discourse Lab will benefit **school heads, assistant heads, division heads, communications directors, diversity directors, and social studies department leaders, among others.** Schools are encouraged to attend as teams of up to four participants.

(ADD ON)

CIVIL DISCOURSE CREDENTIAL — EDUCATOR CERTIFICATION | JULY 30 - 31, 2025

Close Up, in partnership with Mastery Transcript Consortium, is enhancing the impact of its civil discourse programming by creating a Civil Discourse Credential for high school students. This national credential will recognize students who have demonstrated mastery across three key domains: **Digital Citizenship, Communication Across Difference, and Analyzing Political and Social Issues.**

If you're a student-facing educator, you have the opportunity to join a **supplemental two-day (July 30-31) training** following the Civil Discourse Lab to introduce this credential to your students. The training will focus on a range of communication and analytical skills and civic competencies to develop democratic citizens capable of active participation in a large, complex, media-driven democracy. As part of the pilot, the **training cohort will gather (virtually) on a monthly basis** throughout the 2025-26 school year to share feedback on implementation, gain additional skills, and help inform the Civil Discourse Credential.

AUDIENCE: This pilot program is intended for **educators who have the ability to implement the credential within a classroom** context in the 2025-26 school year. Educators will need to dedicate class time for deliberative discussions and student work sessions to complete projects.

