

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: MEDIA LITERACY AND CITIZENSHIP

3-Hour Interactive Workshop

In order to deliberate together as citizens about the issues we face, we must be willing and able to critique news sources, and to seek information from a broad range of perspectives. This professional development session will give teachers the skills and knowledge needed to help students critically evaluate media messages. Teachers will leave with an enriched understanding of the media landscape, knowledge of key concepts in media literacy, and a set of activities that help students engage with a wide range of sources, read critically, apply media literacy to social and digital media, and identify active efforts to mislead.

Session Overview

Media Literacy in Context: Emphasizing the importance of media literacy and its impact on real-world events is an essential part of utilizing media literacy skills effectively.

- Teachers will explore the connections between media, information literacy, and citizen engagement.
- A Close Up facilitator will guide teachers through resources to help students understand the relationship between media and politics.

Media Literacy as Historical Content and Practice: The need for media literacy is not new; understanding the history behind it can enhance outcomes for teachers and students.

- Teachers will examine the role of media literacy in history and the role that media has played in our interpretation of historical events.
- Teachers will learn about key developments in modern media and the historical precedent for “fake news.”

Principles and Practices of Media Literacy Education: There are key concepts that informed consumers of news and media intuitively rely on. This component will help teachers understand and articulate those ideas.

- Teachers will discuss eight major concepts in media literacy that can help students critically engage with news and social media.
- Teachers will participate in model activities which provide real-world applications of the eight major concepts in media literacy to help students develop their understanding.

Tools for Media Literacy: There are a number of practical tools that teachers and students can utilize in class to verify sources and counter disinformation.

- A Close Up facilitator will guide teachers through the specifics and use of readily available online tools that can enhance media literacy skills in class.
- Teachers will participate in a model lesson that demonstrates the distinction between unreliable vs. non-factual sources.

Integrating Media Literacy into Your Classroom: Developing media literacy requires ongoing effort and practice; these lessons and resources will prepare teachers to engage students in this work.

- A Close Up facilitator will guide teachers through a model lesson on identifying reliable sources.
- Teachers will participate in a guided discussion to highlight areas of their curricular sequence in which media literacy instruction would enhance their learning goals.

What's Included

- Interactive virtual training led by Close Up Curriculum & Professional Development Specialists.
- Access to Close Up's *Controversial Issues in the News* digital resource library for one year.
- All materials, including a digital teacher handbook, lesson plans, and classroom materials.
- Certificate of completion eligible for 3 hours of PD credit.*
- Tech support during the session.

Next Steps

To learn more or to schedule professional development for your school or district, please contact a Professional Development Specialist at classroom@closeup.org.

*Please check with your school district in advance to ensure that the PD recertification credit is accepted.