

BECOME A SEMINAR SPEAKER!



Do you work in policy, advocacy, or community action? Engage with Close Up students as a seminar speaker!

Each week throughout the school year, Close Up brings students from all over the country to our nation's capital for an immersive, multi-day program that teaches them the skills of active citizenship. A vital part of our curriculum to inform, inspire, and empower students is a series of seminars. These topical speaking engagements allow students to talk with experts in policy, advocacy, or citizen action; become more informed about issues they care about; and learn about organizations that are promoting change in the world.

We Want You! To become a volunteer seminar speaker, all you need is an interest in talking to high school students about the work that you do and the role and impact of your organization.

How It Works

In a Close Up seminar, the audience is made up of approximately 100 high school students from a number of states, urban and rural areas, and public and private schools. The engagement lasts for 60 minutes (30-35 minutes of prepared presentation by the speaker followed by 25-30 minutes of Q&A).

As a speaker, we ask that you talk about the work your organization does, what you do in your position, the specific issues you work on, the impact your work has on communities and/or current events, and anything else you feel is relevant for a high school audience. Typical student questions include:

- What is your professional experience?
- What do you like most about your job?
- What policies or projects have you worked on that have been particularly interesting to you?
- How does your work fit into the greater scheme of things?
- Where did you go to college? What is it like to live and work in Washington, DC?

The seminar can be as casual or as formal as you would like. We encourage our speakers to present in a way that best represents them and the work they do. If you like to use a podium and a microphone, they will always be provided. Speakers are also welcome—but not required—to bring a PowerPoint.

Where and When

Seminars take place weekly, typically during business hours, and are held across Washington, DC. Some common locations include the auditoriums at First Congregational UCC and the U.S. Navy Memorial.

Contact Us

If you have any questions or are interested in becoming a seminar speaker, please fill out the [interest page](#) and/or contact Samantha Garza, Close Up speaker coordinator, at sgarza@closeup.org or 575-910-0047. Samantha will coordinate all specifics and logistics with you prior to the seminar.

About Close Up

Founded in 1971, Close Up is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, civic education organization with the mission of educating and inspiring students to become active participants in our democracy. Our Washington High School Program is a unique and exciting experience that brings together students from all over the country to learn the power of civic engagement. Throughout the week, students take part in current issues workshops and simulations, meetings with elected officials and policymakers, seminars with experts and advocates, and visits to monuments, memorials, museums, and government institutions.