



CloseUp 2026

Students: Alexa Deras, Brittany Rivas, Kevin Parga, Sofia Camacho & Valeria Ornales
Chaperones: Mr. & Mrs. Bell & Nubia Contreras



~Experience~

***Got to meet amazing individuals with similar interests as me**

***Acquired knowledge of the 3 branches of the U.S government: legislative, executive, and judicial branch**

***Visited many historical monuments**

~Other fun Stuff~

***Explored the city**

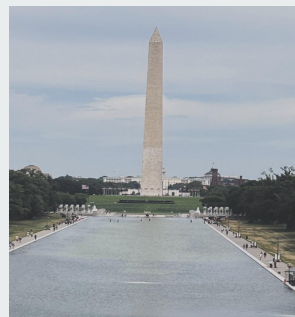
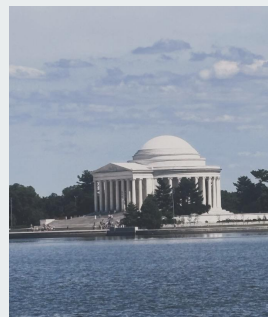
***Got to see propaganda in every corner of the city**

***Got a tour of the Capital Hill where lots of important decisions are made**

***A memorable experience to discuss problems communities are facing with are state senators**

Brittany R.

Monuments



Sites

Being part of the close up trip to Washington didn't only educate me about the U.S government on a deeper level, it provided me connections with individuals all over the country, how to be a leader and have courage in order to make a difference. Closeup provided lots of support towards individuals and made them feel heard, not just as high school students but as leaders striving to make a change. This trip is so far one of the most memorable experiences I've had and I'm honored to be able to say that. This opportunity is one of a kind and with our being said everything I learned has inspired me to step up and make a change in my community at home.

Brittany R.



Most
out
standing
for me.

VIOLENCE

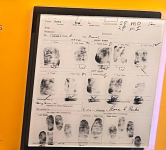
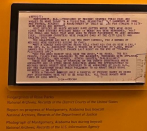
NON-VIOLENCE

BOYCOTT

On December 1, 1955, after a long work day, Rosa Parks took a seat on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama. The driver instructed her and three other African American passengers to vacate their seats for white passengers. When Parks remained seated, the bus driver called the police, who arrested and finger-printed her. Afterwards, Montgomery's Women's Political Caucus called for a one-day boycott of city buses. It lasted more than a year. This February 24, 1956, report describes progress 11 weeks into the boycott. On December 20, 1956, the Supreme Court ordered Montgomery buses desegregated.

MURDER ON CHRISTMAS DAY

As head of the Florida National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Harry T. Moore tirelessly protested lynchings and discrimination. He led a voter registration drive that added more than 100,000 African American voters. In 1951, on Christmas night, Moore's house was bombed—killing him and his wife, Harriette. The attack shocked many Americans. Among those who expressed their outrage was Karl Schuppert of Reading, Pennsylvania, who insisted that President Harry S. Truman not let the murder go "unsolved."



 Close up taught me to be open, everyone has an opinion weather it comes from yourself or others.

What I took away from close up was the historic value within people and art, the emotions that fled through my mind and body while I was there made me try to understand how the artist and people felt.

I learned how the Government splits up it power and how other organizations work with the government to support it.

Kevin Parga Baez



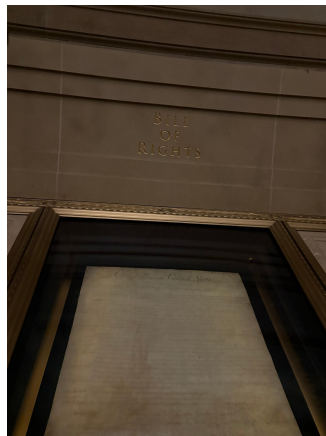
- During my trip to Washington, D.C., I had the opportunity to visit several important historical and government sites.
 - I visited the Lincoln Memorial, Washington Monument, and U.S. Capitol.
 - We also had workshops with people from different states and we made new connections and saw their views and perspectives.
- I also enjoyed walking around the National Mall and seeing the different monuments and memorials. This trip helped me connect what I have learned in school to real places and events in American history.
- Visiting Washington, D.C. was a meaningful experience that I will remember, and I'm grateful I had the opportunity to learn outside of the classroom.

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- **Learned about the judicial executive and legislative branches**
 - **Went through an election process**
 - **Knowledge for College Admissions process**
 - **U.S Senate Experience**
 - **New connections with other students**

Alexa Deras



**Thomas
Jefferson
Memorial**



**Bill of
Rights**



**MLK
Memorial**

What I learned more when at Close Up was about how our government works, how the different branches share power and how they all work together. A big part was learning that the government based on how we vote makes a big difference.

Visiting the memorials and the historic sites, helped me to understand the history behind the. Seeing the monuments along with the artwork in person make everything feel more real when learning and talking about them.

The most important thing that I learned when on the trip was about listening to different opinions and to look at our history and our government from different perspectives.

Valeria