

Instruction

Study of Controversial Issues

1. Guidelines for Teachers When Making a Decision to Study Controversial Issues
 - a) The issue being discussed should not be beyond the maturity level of the pupils.
 - b) The issue should be of relevance to District-approved curricular content being taught at this grade level.
 - c) The issue should be socially significant.
 - d) The issue should be one which the teacher feels can be handled successfully from a personal standpoint.
 - e) The issue should be one for which adequate study materials can be obtained.
 - f) Adequate time should be available to justify the presentation of this issue.
 - g) Should the controversial issue clash with community customs or attitudes, all viewpoints must be presented and discussed as part of classroom instruction. Such clash with community values should be discussed prior between the teacher and principal so to devise a communication plan to families.

2. Guidelines for Teachers When Teaching Controversial Issues
 - a) The presentation of a diversity of points of view is essential to education in a democracy.
 - b) Students should have an opportunity to consider and evaluate differing attitudes and ideas on current issues in the classroom.
 - c) Each student must be given the opportunity to express ideas and exchange information and attitudes with peers.
 - d) Care must be taken not to force points of view on controversial issues upon the student.
 - e) An open forum atmosphere should be encouraged in the classroom and in the school with the pursuit of truth as an objective in all study and discussion.
 - f) A student's views on controversial matters should not influence the grade given in the subject. However, a grade may be based on how well that student supports the opinion.
 - g) The presentation of controversial matter should be straightforward and factual, and based upon the principle of "fair play."

Legal Reference:

Administrative Regulation adopted: April 11, 1977

Administrative Regulation reviewed: August 21, 2000

Administrative Regulation revised: June 18, 2018