

TEACHING ABOUT CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines within which the District's professional staff and students can teach and learn about controversial issues.

Statement of Policy

When controversial issues are being discussed in classroom instruction, every effort will be made to present various viewpoints fairly, impartially, and discreetly. It will be the teacher's responsibility to determine the degree and extent of consideration given to a specific controversial issue based upon knowledge, maturity, and competence of students and class.

- * Controversial issues will be studied with as much impartiality as possible.
- * In discussing controversial issues, the teacher will not seek to bring about a single conclusion to which all students must subscribe.
- * In discussion of controversial issues, the teacher will not suppress a student's view on the issue as long as the expression is not derogatory, malicious, or abusive toward others or their views, but on the other hand, one student will not be permitted to dominate the discussion.
- * Controversial issues, within the scope of any course of study, will be explored from as many viewpoints as possible.
- * It will be the responsibility of the teacher to distinguish opinion or interpretation from fact, when recognized.

Related policies: IGE, KEB

Effective: February 3, 1971

Revised: January 17, 1996

IMB

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