

Instruction

Controversial Issues

The study of controversial issues of political, social or economic significance helps students learn how to gather and organize facts, discern fact from fiction, reach intelligent conclusions based on factual data, and listen to and respect the differing opinions of others.

Teachers are expected to ensure that all sides of controversial issues are fully presented based on factual information and should help students learn how to separate fact from opinion, sort fact from fiction or distorted facts, and how to develop conclusions based on a study and evaluation of factual data. Teachers are expected no to denigrate any student's view while still subjecting it to appropriate criticism and discussion.

Teachers using guest speakers will ask that they not use their position or influence in order to forward their own religious, political, or social or economic views or will insure that the speaker disclose his/her position or interest as a part of class participation.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

51500 Prohibited instruction or activity

51510 Prohibited study or supplemental materials

51511 Religious matters properly included in courses of study

51530 Prohibition and definition re advocating or teaching communism with intent to indoctrinate

51933 Sex education courses

60040 Portrayal of cultural and racial diversity

60044 Prohibited instructional materials

60045 Required to be accurate, objective, current, and suited to needs and comprehension at respective grade levels