

Studying Controversial Issues

The teaching of controversial issues requires the recognition of responsibilities: by the teacher to students, by the principal to the district, and by the district to the community.

The teacher will adhere to the following guidelines:

1. The issue should be within the framework of the district's philosophy and the program in the subject area;
2. The issue should be within the level of the student's maturity;
3. The discussion should contribute significantly to developing the skills of critical thinking and problem solving;
4. Teaching strategies should be objective so that all sides of the issue are explored;
5. Suitable materials, including facts and concepts of all aspects of the issue, should be available;
6. Parents will be informed in advance regarding controversial issues discussed in courses either through course outlines or by special issues and will be afforded the opportunity to withhold the student without penalty;
7. Reasonable requests from parents to view materials will be honored;
8. The principal will be informed of all teaching of controversial issues in the school.

Based on the teacher guidelines above, the principal will approve or disapprove the teaching of controversial issues which are not a part of the district curriculum.