

Procedures for Controversial Speakers

1. Teachers or sponsors are encouraged to utilize resource speakers from the community for enrichment and informational purposes.
2. In selecting resource speakers, the teacher or sponsor must consider the following information:
 - a. The speaker's possible contribution to the achievement of course objectives.
 - b. The speaker's knowledge of the subject.
 - c. The speaker's ability to present material at a level understandable to the students.
 - d. The speaker's ability to interest and stimulate the students.
 - e. The availability of several speakers of comparable competence in order to present a variety of points of view on any controversial topic.
3. Prior to the appearance of the resource speaker, the teacher/sponsor shall:
 - a. Become familiar with the speaker's presentation and any materials that will be distributed to students.
 - b. Prepare the students for the position and/or issues the speaker(s) will present.
 - c. Inform the speaker(s) about the role he/she is expected to play in the classroom/school setting.
 - d. Make provision for informing the students on other points of view in the absence of such speakers.
 - e. Consider if the type of presentation warrants a question/answer period.
 - f. Give adequate advance notice of the scheduled appearance to the principal so that the effect of the speaker on all aspects of the school program may be considered and advance planning for responding to parent, community and media questions and concerns may be made.
 - g. In the case of a speaker who is generally considered to be controversial, notice shall be given to the principal prior to extending an invitation. If the principal concludes that the appearance of a particular speaker would endanger student safety, be disruptive, or be adverse to community standards, he/she may deny the invitation and report such action to the deputy superintendent and the teacher/sponsor.
4. All of the above regulations shall apply for speakers in classrooms and assemblies during the normal school day and/or club meetings and other school-sponsored meetings held in the school after regular hours.