

TEACHING ABOUT CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES

Controversial issues include topics that involve significant differences of opinion, unclear resolutions and/or topics that create strong feelings among students and/or the public in general. Teachers should limit extensive discussion on controversial issues to situations where there is a clear educational purpose relative to state standards. Teachers should consider the age, maturity and background of the students when discussing these topics.

Students should be permitted to form and express their own point of view and opinions with respect to controversial issues without jeopardizing their grades or status in the class.

Each teacher has the right to teach about controversial issues in accordance with the terms of this policy and subject to approval from the building principal. Teachers should select issues for study and discussion that are connected to state standards and contribute to the attainment of course objectives, and make available to students the materials concerning the various aspects of the issues. Each teacher also has the obligation to be objective and to present all sides of an issue. Teachers should not attempt to indoctrinate students to the teacher's position on the issue.

First Reading: 11-5-18

Second Reading: 1-14-19

Reviewed: 4-5-22 (Policy Advisory Council and Board Policy Committee)