

InstructionControversial Issues in the Classroom

The following administrative and teaching regulations are to be observed:

For Principals:

1. Remind teachers that we do not teach controversial issues, but rather opportunities for their study.

For Teachers:

1. Deal with controversial topics as impartially and objectively as possible. Do not intrude your own biases.
2. Handle all such topics in a manner suited to the range of knowledge, maturity, and competence of your students.
3. Have teaching materials dealing with all possible aspects of the topics readily available.
4. Do not manufacture an issue. Take up only those that are current and real.
5. Do not expect or require that individual students or the class reach an agreement.
6. If you plan to address a controversial topic in your classroom, notify your Principal in advance. Similarly, if a controversial topic or discussion arises during instructional time, promptly notify your Principal. Students or parents who are upset about a controversial topic may contact the Principal, and the Principal needs to be prepared to have that conversation with parents.
7. Whenever you are in doubt about the advisability of taking up a given "hot" topic, consult with your Principal and or/Superintendent.
8. Remember that the policy of the board is designed to protect you as well as your students from unfair or inconsiderate criticism whenever your students are studying a controversial subject.

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