

Oneida Special Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in December	Descriptor Term: Controversial Issues	Descriptor Code: 4.800	Issued Date:
		Rescinds: 4.800	Issued: 11/06/03

The discussion of issues in the classroom which are politically, philosophically, or socially controversial shall be relevant to the subject matter being taught, related to educational objectives, appropriate for the age and maturity of students, and shall not materially or substantially disrupt or threaten to disrupt the school environment.

To ensure that controversial issues are presented and discussed fairly and objectively and with instruction as their goal, the following guidelines shall be observed:

1. All personnel shall seek to create an atmosphere in which differences of opinion can be voiced without fear and hostility and with mutual respect for all viewpoints;
2. Teachers shall encourage students to withhold judgment and to avoid making conclusions until all relevant and significant facts have been assembled, critically examined, and checked for accuracy;
3. Teachers shall seek to develop in students a sense of responsibility for their beliefs, opinions, attitudes, and actions; and
4. If the subject matter being taught involves conflicting opinions, theories, or schools of thought, the teacher shall ensure that differing sides of an issue are explored in order to help students develop their own critical faculties.

Cross References

Instructional Standards 4.101
Controversial Materials 4.801
Staff Rights and Responsibilities 5.600
Student Publications 6.704