

Instruction

Controversial Issues - Regulations

1. Controversial issues shall be handled as they arise in the classroom.
2. The teachers shall not present their personal positions as the only acceptable positions nor shall teachers seek to bring about a single conclusion to which all students must subscribe.
3. Teachers shall not suppress a student's view on a given issue, assuming that the expressed viewpoint is not derogatory, malicious, or abusive toward others.
4. Controversial issues shall be studied objectively as the ability of both teacher and students will permit.
5. All sides of an issue will be explored, and the teacher will provide suggested resource materials or sources of information on as many aspects of the issue as possible. Materials and references, presenting all sides of a controversial issue, should be made available by the school library.
6. Students shall be encouraged to come to their own conclusions to a particular problem after independent inquiry.

Utilizing Controversial Speakers

1. Controversial speakers and their related materials should be used only with the written consent of the building administrator.
2. Teachers/sponsors should encourage the use of resource persons representing various approaches or points of view on a given topic in order to afford the students a more comprehensive understanding.
3. The ideas presented and the resource person invited to present them, shall have a demonstrable relation to the curricular or co-curricular activity in which the participating students are involved.
4. Derogatory, malicious and/or abusive comments regarding others should not be made. Profanity, vulgarity, and lewd comments are prohibited.

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Utilizing Controversial Speakers (continued)

The teacher/sponsor responsible for inviting the speaker or the school administrator may interrupt or suspend the presentation if it conflicts with these guidelines or endangers the health and safety of students and/or staff.

(cf. 1312 - Public Complaints)  
(cf. 4118.12 - Academic Freedom)  
(cf. 5145 - Civil and Legal Rights and Responsibilities)  
(cf. 6161.1 - re Censorship)

Legal Reference:        Keyishian v. Board of Regents 395 U.S. 589, 603  
                                 (1967)

Academic Freedom Policy (adopted by Connecticut  
State Board of Education, 9/9/81)

Regulation  
approved: 10/19/1994  
Revised: 8/19/98

BROOKFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Brookfield, Connecticut