
CLOVIS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

Standard Instructional Program

CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES

PURPOSE: To establish guidelines for the consideration of controversial issues.

The Board believes that the consideration of controversial issues has a legitimate place in the instructional program of the schools. Properly introduced and conducted, the consideration of such issues can help students learn to identify important issues, explore fully and fairly all sides of an issue, weigh carefully the values and factors involved, and develop techniques for formulating and evaluating positions.

For purposes of this policy, a controversial issue is a topic on which opposing points of view have been promulgated by responsible opinion or are likely to arouse both support and opposition in the community.

The Board will permit the introduction and proper educational use of controversial issues provided that their use in the instructional program:

- a. is related to the instructional goals of the course of study and level of maturity of the students;
- b. does not tend to indoctrinate or persuade students to a particular point of view;
- c. encourages fair presentation and open-mindedness;
- d. is conducted in a spirit of scholarly inquiry;
- e. is instigated by curricular design.

When controversial issues have not been specified in the curriculum guide, the Board will permit the instructional use of only those issues which have been reported to the principal by the teacher in advance of their use, and have been approved by the Superintendent or his designee.

No controversial issue may be addressed which, in the Board's determination, contains any matter reflecting adversely upon persons because of their race, color, creed, national origin, ancestry, sex, handicap, or occupation, or which discussion includes sectarian or denominational doctrine or propaganda contrary to law. (*E.C. 51500, 60044*)

Adopted: 12/12/79
Amended: 11/6/91
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Reviewed: 5/1/07
Reviewed: 9/7/08
Reviewed: 02/9/11

Education Code sections 51500, 51510, 51511, 51530, 60002, 60044, 60045