

Controversial Issues/Guest Speakers

In the consideration of controversial issues having political, economic, or social significance, the teacher or guest speaker in a school situation will recognize these general principles:

- A. Primary purposes of such consideration are:
 - 1. Development of a love for knowledge, a desire to search for truth, and a pattern of action to determine it.
 - 2. Cultivation of a deep and abiding sense of the worth of political liberty.
 - 3. The development of responsible and participating members of our American democratic society.
- B. Emotional criticism and promotion of a cause are inappropriate and unscholarly. The teacher's or guest speaker's attitude shall be one of truth-seeking, open-mindedness, and tolerance.
- C. Consideration of issues shall be in an atmosphere free from bias and prejudice.
- D. Access to relevant information shall be freely available in the school, public libraries, and other sources.
- E. Avoidance of expressing a personal opinion is advisable. It may be expressed, if clearly labeled, when all the facts are assembled and it is likely to further an understanding of the issues involved.
- F. The relative immaturity of students and their need for guidance in studying the issues and arriving at balanced views must be taken into consideration.

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