

TEACHING ABOUT CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES

The Board believes that the antithesis of education is censorship. Consequently, it believes there should be no curtailment or avoidance of controversial issues of local, state, national, or international importance unless such presentation is forbidden by law. However, discussion and exploration of such issues must be relevant to the course, class, topic, and age of youngsters pursuing the subject. It should be made clear that such presentation does not constitute endorsement by the schools of either side of the issue and is offered to provide the opportunity for study by the pupils. The Board urges administrators and teachers to present such information in as objective a manner as is possible. Where opinion, bias, or prejudices are being foisted on a captive audience by an authority figure (the teacher), they should be clearly stated as such. The Board would further suggest that tests not be given over controversial topics.