

Factual materials relating to both sides of controversial issues of local, state, national, and international importance may be presented in classrooms, provided such factual materials are within the scope of the courses of study which have been approved and adopted by law. School administrators and teaching personnel shall be required to exert their most conscientious efforts to present pertinent facts objectively and impartially.

The following guidelines will be used in handling controversial issues in the classroom:

1. Controversial issues will be studied with as much objectivity as possible. The teacher will provide suggested resource materials or sources of information on as many aspects of the issues as s/he can in order that all students may reach individual conclusions with respect to the particular issue.
2. In discussing controversial issues, the teacher shall not seek to bring about a single conclusion to which all students must subscribe.
3. In discussions of controversial issues, the teacher shall not suppress a student's view on the issue as long as the expression is not derogatory, malicious, or abusive toward other's views; however, one student shall not be permitted to dominate the discussion.
4. All sides of a controversial issue, within the scope of any course of study, shall be explored and impartially presented with adequate and appropriate factual information.
5. It shall be the responsibility of the teacher to distinguish fact from opinion and to warn the students against drawing conclusions from insufficient data.

Legal Reference:

Education Code Section 44805

Board of Trustees

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