

Instruction

Teaching About Controversial Issues

Definition: Controversial issues are here defined as issues on which conflicting views are held by political parties, by management and labor, by city and country and by other large groups of our people who disagree on the proposed solutions to important problems. Controversial issues are important proposals or policies concerning which our citizens hold different points of view. Controversial issues arise from the conflicts in the cherished interests, beliefs, or affiliations of large groups of our citizens.

The fundamental objectives of studying controversial issues are:

To improve ability to discriminate between fact and opinion.

To increase critical thinking skills.

To learn how to identify propaganda techniques.

To provide insight into the source of one's own bias or prejudice.

To develop an appreciation of the rights of others to their own opinions.

Discussion of controversial issues should be age-appropriate, serve an educational purpose, be consistent with the curriculum, and present a balanced view.

CROSS REF.: 6:40 (Curriculum Development)

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