

Van Buren County Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in November	Descriptor Term: Controversial Issues	Descriptor Code: 4.800	Issued Date: 06/17/99
		Rescinds:	Issued:

1 The discussion of issues in the classroom which are politically, philosophically or socially controversial
2 shall be relevant to the subject matter being taught, related to educational objectives, appropriate
3 for the age and maturity of students, and shall not materially or substantially disrupt or threaten to
4 disrupt the discipline of the school.

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6 To ensure that controversial issues are presented and discussed fairly and objectively and with instruc-
7 tion as their goal, the following guidelines shall be observed:

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- 9 1. All personnel will seek to create an atmosphere in which differences of opinion can be voiced
10 without fear and hostility and with mutual respect for all viewpoints;
 - 11 2. Teachers will encourage students to withhold judgment and to avoid making of conclusions
12 until all relevant and significant facts have been assembled, critically examined, and checked
13 for accuracy;
 - 14 3. Teachers will seek to develop in students a sense of responsibility for their beliefs, opinions,
15 attitudes and actions;
 - 16 4. Teachers shall place major emphasis upon "why" and "how" to think rather than "what" to think;
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 - 19 5. If the subject matter being taught involves conflicting opinions, theories, or schools of thought,
20 the teacher will ensure that differing sides of an issue are explored in order to help students
21 develop their own critical faculties.
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Cross Reference:

Staff Rights and Responsibilities 5.600