

# Scott County Board of Education

Monitoring: <b>Review: Annually, in November</b>	Descriptor Term:  <b>Controversial Issues</b>	Descriptor Code: <b>4.800</b>	Issued Date: <b>08/08/96</b>
		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 for the  
3 age and maturity of students, and shall not materially or substantially disrupt or threaten to disrupt the  
4 discipline of the school.

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6 To ensure that controversial issues are presented and discussed fairly and objectively and with instruction  
7 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 until  
12 all relevant and significant facts have been assembled, critically examined, and checked for  
13 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;  
17 and  
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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 develop  
21 their own critical faculties.  
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36 Cross Reference:

37 Staff Rights and Responsibilities 5.600  
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