

CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES

Free discussion of controversial issues is the heart of the democratic process. Freedom of speech and free access to information are among our most cherished traditions. Under the guidance of their parents and teachers, pupils in high school are mature enough to study the controversial issues facing our citizens. It is the responsibility of the schools to make provisions for this study.

The fulfilling of this responsibility guarantees the right of the pupil to study controversial issues about which he should or may have some knowledge, reach judgments according to individual conscience, or choose between alternative points of view; and about which he may express his own opinions without fear of penalty.

To assure the orderly and thorough examination of topics which may be controversial, the administration and the staff shall make and enforce rules and regulations establishing procedures for handling complaints on such issues and materials.

For the purpose of this policy, a controversial issue is a subject of importance which may be presented visually, such as printed or pictorial matter, or it may be presented orally by a speaker. It becomes controversial when opposing points of view exist within a community or a society.