

Paso Robles Joint USD

Administrative Regulation

Academic Freedom/Controversial Issues

AR 6144

Instruction

Controversial issues may be discussed in the classroom, provided that:

1. The issue is related to the Board-adopted course of study and provides opportunities for critical thinking, for developing tolerance, and for understanding conflicting points of view.
2. Available information for the planned unit of study is sufficient to allow alternative points of view to be discussed and evaluated on a factual basis.
3. All sides of the issue are given a proper hearing, using established facts as primary evidence.
4. The issue has points of view which can be understood and defined by the students within the context of age-appropriateness and maturity.
5. The teacher does not use his/her position to forward his/her own religious, political, economic or social viewpoint. The teacher may express a personal opinion if he/she identifies it as such and does not express the opinion for the purpose of persuading students to his/her point of view.
6. The discussion does not reflect adversely upon persons because of their race, sex, color, creed, national origin, ancestry, handicap, or occupation.
7. The content of the oral, written, or visual presentation does not violate federal law, state law or district/site policies, rules or procedures.
8. Discussion or study of the issue is instigated by the students or by the established curriculum, but not by a source outside of the schools.

Challenges to the use of controversial issues are addressed through Board Policy 1312.2 (Formal Complaints Concerning Library, Instructional Materials and Controversial Issues).

Regulation PASO ROBLES PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Board Approved/Reviewed: 7/14/98 Paso Robles, California