

The District shall address controversial topics in an impartial and objective manner. Teachers shall not use the classroom to transmit personal beliefs regarding political or sectarian issues. Students and educators shall ensure that, to the extent possible, discussions are conducted fairly and courteously.

A teacher's professional responsibilities demand objectivity in presenting various sides of controversial issues contained within the curriculum. Teachers shall be well-informed in areas being studied and capable of providing instruction on the subject, free of personal bias. Methods of presentation shall focus on learning, stimulate inquiry, and promote critical thinking and analysis.

Selection of Topics

A teacher selecting topics from the written curriculum for discussion in the classroom shall be adequately informed about the issue and capable of providing instruction on the subject, free from personal bias. In addition, the teacher shall be certain that the issue being discussed and accompanying instructional materials:

1. Are presented in the manner consistent with the range, knowledge, maturity, and comprehension of the students.
2. Are current and educationally significant.
3. Do not interfere with required instruction.
4. Provide a balanced set of resources containing sufficient relevant information on all aspects of the issue.

If a teacher is unsure about a topic of discussion or about the methods to employ, the teacher may discuss the issue with the principal.

Classroom Discussion

In guiding classroom discussion of controversial issues, teachers shall:

1. Foster students' critical thinking skills.
2. Encourage discussion based on rational analysis.
3. Create an atmosphere in which students learn to respect others' opinions and disagree courteously.
4. Ensure that multiple viewpoints about the issue are presented by introducing an unexpressed viewpoint when necessary.
5. Avoid sharing personal opinions or persuading students to adopt the teacher's position or point of view.

Student or Parent Concerns

A student or parent with concerns regarding instruction about controversial issues shall be directed to the complaint policy at FNG.