

POLICY

BOARD OF EDUCATION FRANKLIN BOROUGH

PROGRAM
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Controversial Issues
Feb 76

The Board of Education believes that the consideration of controversial issues has a legitimate place in the instructional program of the schools. Properly introduced and conducted, the consideration of such issues can help students learn to identify important issues, explore fully and fairly all sides of an issue, weigh carefully the values and factors involved, and develop techniques for formulating and evaluating positions.

For purposes of this policy, a controversial issue is a topic on which opposing points of view have been promulgated by responsible opinion or one likely to arouse both support and opposition in the community.

The Board will permit the introduction and proper educational use of controversial issues provided that their use in the instructional program:

- a. is related to the instructional goals of the course of study and level of maturity of the students
- b. does not tend to indoctrinate or persuade students to a particular point of view
- c. encourages fair presentation and open-mindedness
- d. is conducted in a spirit of scholarly inquiry
- e. draws upon information and insights from the widest feasible range of resources.

When controversial issues have not been specified in the curriculum guide, the Board will permit the instructional use of only those issues which have been reported to the principal by the teacher in advance of their use.

In the discussion of any issues, a teacher may express personal opinion, but shall identify it as such. He/she must not express such an opinion for the purpose of persuading students to his/her point of view.

Reference: 18A:33-1

Date Adopted: 2/16/76