



Huntington Beach Union High School District Board Policies and Administrative Regulations

BP 6144
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Instruction

Controversial Issues

The Governing Board believes that the schools should maintain an atmosphere conducive to the discussion of issues which may be considered controversial. The schools shall provide students with the opportunity to analyze current problems, gather and organize pertinent facts, discriminate between fact and fiction, draw intelligent conclusions and respect the opinions of others. The study of controversial issues shall be commensurate with the maturity of students.

The Board recognizes the following rights of students relative to the study of controversial issues:

1. The right to study any controversial issue which has political, economic or social significance in the context of the district approved curriculum.
2. The right to have free access to all relevant information, including the materials that circulate freely in the community.
3. The right to study under competent instruction in an atmosphere free from bias and prejudice.
4. The right to form and express his/her own opinions on controversial issues without thereby jeopardizing the student's relations with the teacher of the school.

The teacher should approach the study of controversial issues in an impartial and unprejudiced manner, and must refrain from using classroom privileges and prestige to promote a partisan point of view. The Board establishes the following guidelines to direct the instructional decisions of teachers in relations to the study of controversial issues:

1. Select a topic that is within the emotional and intellectual capacity of the students in the class and that is within the content of the course outline of the subject.

Instruction (continued)

Controversial Issues (continued)

2. See that all sides of the subject are fairly presented. Provide adequate and appropriate materials for the presentation of all points of view, and encourage the students to read widely on the subject.
3. Help the students separate fact from opinion.
4. Guard against generalizations or conclusions based on insufficient data.
5. When unsure of the appropriateness of certain material or a proposed method of presentation, request guidance and assistance from the administrative staff.

Complaints Concerning Controversial Issues

Persons having complaints concerning methods or materials of instruction used in the study and discussion of any issue shall follow the established district procedures for complaints concerning school personnel and complaints concerning instructional materials.

(cf. 1312.1 - Complaints Concerning School Personnel)

(cf. 1312.2 - Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials)

(cf. 4119.26/4219.26/4319.26 - Political Activities of Employees)

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