

# Weakley County Board of Education



Monitoring:

Descriptor Term:

## Controversial Issues

Descriptor Code:

4.800

Issued Date:

2/5/2009

1

2 The discussion of issues in the classroom which are politically, philosophically or socially  
3 controversial shall be relevant to the subject matter being taught, related to educational  
4 objectives, appropriate for the age and maturity of students, and shall not materially or  
5 substantially disrupt or threaten to disrupt the discipline of the school.

6

7 To ensure that controversial issues are presented and discussed fairly and objectively and with  
8 instruction as their goal, the following guidelines shall be observed:

9

10 1. All personnel will seek to create an atmosphere in which differences of opinion can be voiced  
11 without fear and hostility and with mutual respect for all viewpoints;

12

13 2. Teachers will encourage students to withhold judgment and to avoid making of conclusions  
14 until all relevant and significant facts have been assembled, critically examined, and checked for  
15 accuracy;

16

17 3. Teachers will seek to develop in students a sense of responsibility for their beliefs, opinions,  
18 attitudes and actions;

19

20 4. Teachers shall place major emphasis upon “why” and “how” to think rather than “what” to  
21 think; and

22

23 5. If the subject matter being taught involves conflicting opinions, theories, or schools of  
24 thought, the teacher will ensure that differing sides of an issue are explored in order to help  
25 students develop their own critical faculties.

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

Cross References:

5.600 Staff Rights and Responsibilities