

INSTRUCTION

Controversial Issues and Guest Speakers

Controversial Issues

The district encourages staff members to provide for the free and orderly flow and examination of ideas so that students may gain the skills to gather and arrange facts, discriminate between facts and opinion, discuss differing viewpoints, analyze problems and draw their own tentative conclusions. At times there are issues that may warrant classroom discussion that could be perceived as controversial, in which case the staff member should follow the procedures set out below:

1. Prior to the discussion of a controversial issue, staff members will:
 - A. Ensure full participation is possible;
Staff will ensure that all students can see and hear and talk to one another.
 - B. Establish ground rules and guidelines;
Staff will either work with students to generate ground rules or discussion guidelines, or they will present a set of guidelines and then work with students to accept or modify them.

Staff will plan in advance how to prevent students from feeling singled out, tokenized or triggered.
2. During the discussion of a controversial issue, staff members will:
 - A. Include everyone;
All students will be provided an opportunity to participate, and the staff member will ensure that the conversation is not dominated by a small handful of students.
 - B. Encourage open dialogue;
Students will be allowed to ask questions, test their opinions and express their perspectives and experiences without fear of consequences.
 - C. Be an active facilitator;
Staff will reword questions posed by students when helpful, correct misinformation, make reference to relevant reading materials and course content, ask for clarification, ensure a variety of viewpoints are considered, and review main points. Staff will not be passive observers.

Staff will refer students back to established ground rules and guidelines and ensure they are followed.

3. After the discussion of a controversial issue, staff members will:
 - A. Summarize the discussion
 - B. Gather student feedback
 - C. Plan for next steps in instruction based on class discussion and student feedback

Guest Speakers

When a teacher desires to invite a guest speaker who will contribute to the curriculum by helping to achieve the goals and objectives of a course, the staff member will follow the procedure set out below:

- A. At least two weeks before the anticipated date the speaker will visit, the staff member will notify the principal of whom he/she wants to invite and state how the speaker's topic will relate to the curriculum and when the speaker will visit.
- B. The staff member is responsible for fully researching the background of invited speakers and setting the parameters for their presentation.
- C. The staff member must be present at all times when speakers are in the classroom.
- D. The staff member and/or principal shall ask the guest speaker to leave should the speaker begin to cause a disruption to the educational program, deviate from the agreed parameters, and/or no longer serve the purpose expressed at the beginning of this procedure.
- E. Unless the principal approves otherwise, the staff member will not allow non-class members to hear the speaker.
- F. All State and federal laws will be followed by guest speakers.

In the event the speaker's topic is determined by the principal to be controversial, the staff member will:

- A. Notify in writing each student's parent(s) or guardian(s) beforehand so that any parent who wishes not to have his/her student attend the presentation may request an alternative assignment of similar difficulty and equal grade value.

- B. Develop a plan whereby the issue(s) can be presented in an objective, unbiased manner.

- C. Provide the speaker in advance with a copy of CKSD Policy and Procedure 2331.

Adopted: September 25, 1985
Revised: May 23, 2001
Revised: March 9, 2022