Greater Essex County District School Board

Policy: Teaching Controversial Issues

Reference No: P-PR-07

Controversial issues include matters characterized by significant differences of opinion, usually generated from differing and underlying values, beliefs, and interests, which may produce significant social tension.

Controversy arising from such differences is inherent in a pluralistic society. An important function of public education is to provide students with an opportunity to foster critical thinking skills to best understand how controversial issues are dealt with in a democracy.

The Greater Essex County District School Board believes that educators should use discretion and sensitivity when dealing with controversial issues in the classroom and be aware of how these topics of discussions may impact students.