

THE STUDY OF CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES, SUBJECT, AND MATERIALS

In a democratic society the public school has the responsibility for preparing students to apply their intellects to the solutions of problems. In keeping with the democratic process which involves the resolving of controversy in an orderly fashion, it shall be the policy of the San Dieguito Union High School District to foster the study of current and historical facts and ideas in a manner consistent with the district's goals.

Every student in this free society has the right and responsibility to examine pertinent controversial issues, subjects, and materials in an atmosphere free from bias and prejudice. Such issues, subjects, or materials are defined as controversial if some of their elements conflict with the cherished interests, beliefs, or group affiliations of a section of citizens. The study of such issues, subjects, and materials in the San Dieguito Union High School District shall seek to foster in the students the:

1. Ability and the will to study complex life situations and to make intelligent choices from alternatives.
2. Ability to analyze materials, to recognize propaganda, and to evaluate sources of information.
3. Ability and the desire to make use of rational methods in considering significant issues in coming to decisions about them.
4. Willingness to recognize the necessity for and the value of differing viewpoints.
5. Readiness to accept desirable compromise when necessary.
6. Respect for minority positions and the acceptance of the right of minorities, through the democratic process, to attempt to become majorities.

The teaching staff has the responsibility for implementing the study of issues, subjects, and materials in such a way as to promote the foregoing objectives. The administrative staff has the responsibility for formulating and executing administrative directives which will protect and support (1) the staff when unjustifiable complaints, requests, or demands are made, and (2) the community when justifiable complaints, requests, or demands are made. The Board of Trustees will handle all complaints regarding materials, curriculum content, or methods of instruction through the established administrative guidelines and procedures for handling such complaints.