

6.35 Study of Controversial Issues

A. Assumptions basic to District policy:

1. That free discussion is a right guaranteed to all citizens, provided that no one has the right to abuse this freedom by advocating the overthrow of the United States government by force.
2. That a free society functions efficiently only if its citizens have the right to discuss, to debate, and to disagree constructively.
3. That the Constitutional guarantee of freedom of speech is made meaningful by a willingness of the majority to hear honest expressions of unpopular ideas by minority points of view.
4. That an educated citizenry, fully aware of all the evidence, is the best able to preserve the valuable heritage of American democratic institutions.
5. That each College has an obligation to its community to promote healthy discussion as an educative force.

B. Within the framework of the orderly process of our democratic Constitutional society, the faculty and students of each College shall have the freedom to consider all issues which will contribute to the development of the District's students. The criteria to be followed in selecting issues for study shall be:

1. The issue should contribute to the prescribed course of study and the general education program of the Colleges.
2. The issue should be of sufficient interest to encourage participation by the students.
3. The issue should provide opportunity for critical thinking, tolerance, and understanding of conflicting points of view.
4. The issue should be one about which sufficient information is available to allow for discussion and evaluation on a factual and reasonable basis.