6 Aims of Teaching Controversial Political Issues to Students

1. Political Equity
Citizens are political equals, both as a birthright and as individuals with unique needs and perspectives.

2. Political Tolerance
Citizens have unalienable rights, regardless of political viewpoints. Those in the majority rule cannot use public policy to discriminate against or persecute those who are in the minority.

3. Political Autonomy
Citizens are free from oppression or coercion and free to form political opinions and participate in the political process.

4. Political Fairness
Citizens think individually and collectively about finding the best solutions to promote the common good.

5. Political Engagement
Citizens participate politically by staying informed, debating, voting, protesting, and campaigning.

6. Political Literacy
Citizens think critically about controversial political issues and also understand the larger political context, such as historical context, the role of government, etc.

We are seniors. We are going out into the real world in a few months, a few weeks, actually, from now. And, you know, we have to be exposed to that stuff some time or another. Otherwise, you are going to be completely clueless.

—High School Student

Source

More Information
SIRS Issues Researcher is a pro/con database that helps students understand today’s controversial political issues with editorially selected analysis and opinions that cover the entire spectrum of viewpoints. Don’t have SIRS Issues Researcher? Free trials are available.