

## LEARNING/INSTRUCTION

### Controversial Issues

The American society is dynamic. Never in history has a society developed so rapidly in so many areas of human endeavor. This has been possible because the American society has grown on a strong foundation of basic principles; principles that have their roots in respect for the worth, the dignity and the unique qualities of the individual; principles that are based on concern for the common good and in faith in the use of the group process; and principles which express faith in human intelligence and the use of the scientific method.

One of the primary tasks of the Minneapolis Public Schools is to provide these kinds of educational experiences which support the development of the understanding of and the application of the democratic principles upon which the American society has been built and continues to grow and expand. These experiences are provided for the express purpose of helping each individual realize potential as a fully functioning citizen of community, state, country, and the world.

A fully functioning citizen, the primary objective of the American educational program, is regarded as one:

who has maximum freedom to develop as desired, within the potential and unique abilities at one's disposal, as long as the desires are consistent with the concern for the common good and are vested in championing the dignity of human beings;

who has the right and the responsibility to participate in the governing of the country;

who has the responsibility of developing personal integrity, in acting with moral courage, and in giving unselfish service to family, community, and the country;

who has the right to economic opportunity and free enterprise;

who believes all people have the right to develop in a world at peace.

As the American society becomes more varied in nature, its problems become more complex. The demands placed on its future citizens will become greater and, therefore, it becomes evident that even more emphasis must be placed upon the individual:

1. to develop the basic tools of learning;
2. to develop those abilities related to the democratic processes including: discussion, persuasion, negotiation, and arbitration;
3. to develop the ability to collect, to document, to evaluate, to organize all available data on issues facing our society and to develop tentative conclusions;
4. to develop the ability to identify and resist undemocratic theories, methods, and procedure.

A sound educational program designed to provide educational experiences which will help today's youth grow into fully functioning citizens of tomorrow's world cannot avoid contact with controversial issues. We believe that capable teachers, under competent supervision,

using carefully reviewed instructional materials can utilize controversial issues to provide the kinds of educational experiences that can prepare citizens to be fully functioning individuals in our American society.

Policy  
adopted: 4/25/67

revised: 3/2/72  
12/16/75  
8/13/85

MINNEAPOLIS BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Minneapolis, Minnesota