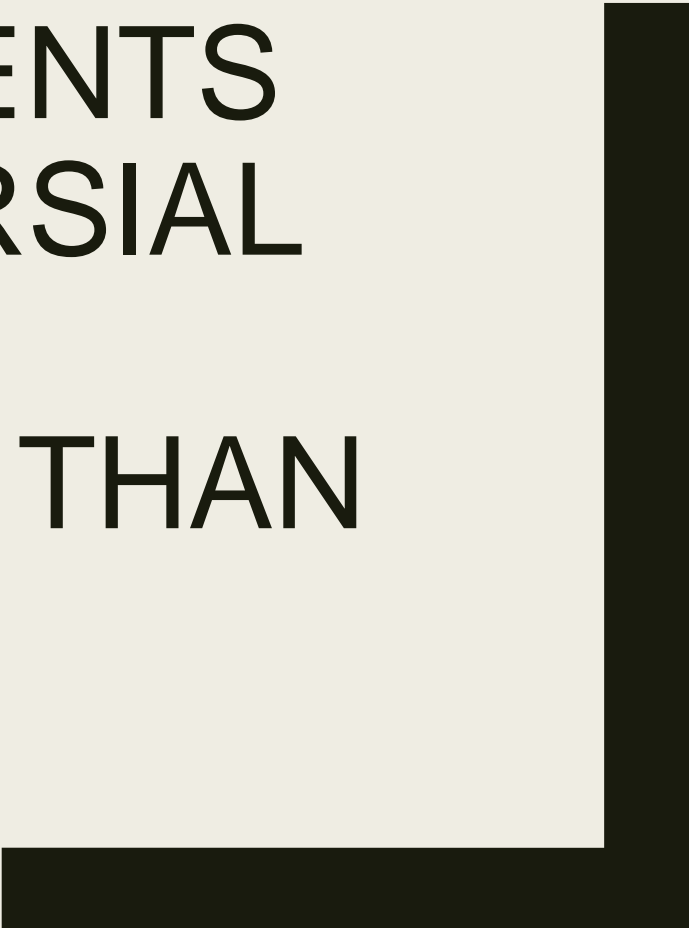
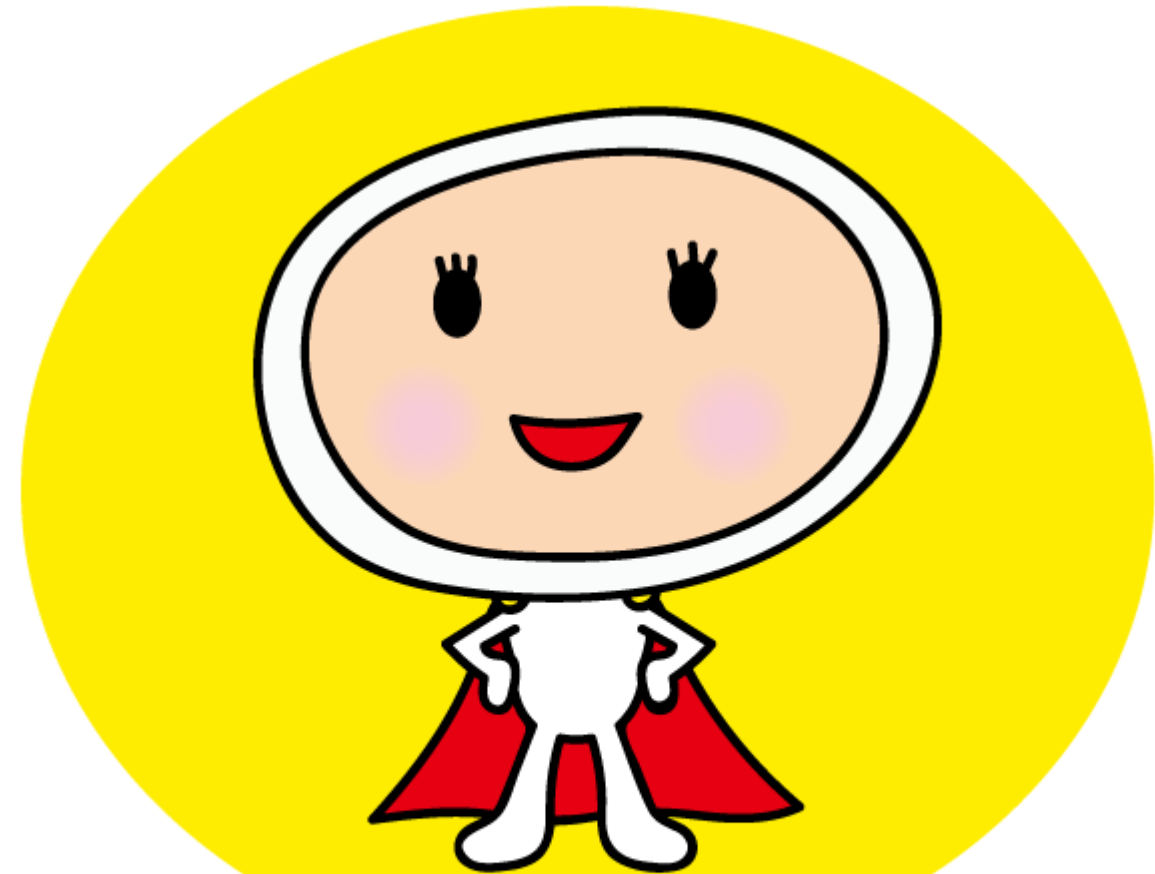


ENGAGING STUDENTS  
WITH CONTROVERSIAL  
ISSUES:  
MORE NECESSARY THAN  
EVER?

Dr. Gary Weilbacher & Dr. Kyle Miller  
School of Teaching and Learning  
Illinois State University



What  
motivated  
you to  
attend this  
session?



**I'M HERE!**

What do we mean by *controversial issue*?

- Any issue that might lead to a disagreement or debate
- Social justice issues focus on addressing inequities in society

What issues are relevant to your students or community?



# Engaging students with controversial issues is important!

- Promotes critical thinking skills, communication skills, research skills, etc.
- Develops interpersonal skills
- Supports an active learning environment
- Citizenship Preparation: Equips students to become discerning citizens
- By ignoring issues you are sending a message to students



What gets in the way of addressing controversial issues?

# Small Group Activity



## Step 1: What would you do?

Discuss how you would handle the controversial issue in your classroom

## Step 2: Justify its importance

Identify a (common core) standard that could be met by addressing the issue in your classroom

# Tips for Educators

- Use state standards as a justification (not an excuse)
- Opt-in & Opt-out forms for parents
- Resource list
  - *Books*
  - *Articles*
  - *Links*
- Use ISU faculty as a support system
  - *Gary Weilbacher*
  - *Kyle Miller*

