ENGAGING STUDENTS WITH CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES: MORE NECESSARY THAN EVER?

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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