

Teaching Controversial Issues: List of Resources

Books

Hess, D. E. & McAvoy, P (2014). *The political classroom: Evidence and ethics in democratic education*.
New York, NY: Routledge.

Hess, D. E. (2009). *Controversy in the classroom: The democratic power of discussion*. New York, NY:
Routledge.

Articles

“Politics in the Classroom: How Much is Too Much?” – nprEd, August 2015

In this article, Diana Hess and Paul McAvoy discuss their research and offer guidelines/questions for integrating controversial issues into the classroom. They argue that classrooms should be political spaces, but not partisan spaces.

<http://www.npr.org/sections/ed/2015/08/06/415498760/the-role-of-politics-in-the-classroom>

“Why Teaching Civics in America’s Classrooms Must Be a Trump-Era Priority” – Mother Jones, Jan/Feb 2017

This article endorses the need for civics in American classrooms, especially given the current political climate:

<http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2017/02/civics-education-trump-bullying/>

“The Case for Contentious Curricula” – The Atlantic, April 2017

This article suggest that teachers should not shy away from controversial topics, in fact, they belong in the classroom.

<https://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2017/04/the-case-for-contentious-classrooms/524268/>

“Controversial Issues in the Classroom” – (Harwood & Hahn, 1990)

This article describes the benefits of incorporating controversial issues in the classroom.

<https://www.procon.org/sourcefiles/ERIC.pdf>

“33 Controversial Discussion Topics and How to Teach Them” – Busy Teacher

This article offers very practical steps for facilitating controversial discussions, as well as a list of potential topics to address.

<http://busyteacher.org/4686-33-controversial-topics-and-how-to-teach-them.html>

“Addressing Controversial Science Topics in the K-12 Classroom” – STEM Teaching Tools, Feb 2017

<http://stemteachingtools.org/assets/landscapes/STEM-Teaching-Tool-44-Teaching-Controversial-Science-Topics.pdf>

Additional Resource

Procon.org – A site that presents both sides of a wide range of issues. It is a great resource for students and they have a “Teacher’s Corner” section.

<http://www.procon.org/>