

Lesson planning for teaching controversial issues in the classroom: a handout

When planning a lesson on controversial issues, a teacher needs to consider the relevant context and classroom composition. In this exercise, you will need to plan a lesson to be conducted considering the contextual conditions below. All these conditions can make the issue more or less controversial in a particular classroom

General factors to consider	
School location	
School ethos related to the issue	
Local population: cultural affiliation and professional occupation	
Views of students' parents on the issue	
Interpretation of the issue in the relevant media	
Any recent local events or school events related to the issue	
Profile of students	
Age	
Gender ratio	
Students' background (for ex., cultural affiliation)	

Considering the contextual information given above, respond to three questions:

- Give 2-3 examples of controversial issues that can be safely dealt with in this particular classroom and which should be approached with great caution or even avoided. Explain why;
- Name approaches and methods that can be used to safely address the enlisted issues in this classroom.
- Is there anything else to have in mind when planning a lesson on the enlisted controversial issues in this classroom?

