## Issues that Surround Curriculum

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<th>What Teachers Should Do About Censorship</th>
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| - Censorship occurs when selected materials are challenged after they have been approved for use.  
- Books are censored most commonly for language, sexual content, religious content, politics, or other “offensive” material.  
- Teachers should create approved or recommended reading lists.  
- School districts must create and implement clear policies on how to handle censorship before materials are selected.  
- Committees must be organized to handle the controversy in an orderly and timely manner to avoid problems in the communities.  
- Teachers, librarians, and other educators must not allow prejudices and biases to interfere with problems.  
- Educators must fight censorship as it does a disservice to the students. | - Reading instruction has been one of the most volatile debates in the history of American school curriculum.  
- The two main methods are phonics instruction and whole language instruction.  
- Since the 1930s, curricular decisions on literacy instruction have been based on the research studies and federal funding of each decade.  
- Both literacy instruction methods have developed and changed since their original forms.  
- Today, most educators believe that a combination of aspects from phonics and whole language is the best way to teach students to read. |

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<th>The Controversy of Sex Education</th>
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| - Sex education has become a continuing controversy among school districts.  
- Sex education is controversial because people can’t agree on where it should occur, when, and what it should include.  
- There are two types of sex education classes; Abstinence Only classes that only address waiting until marriage, and classes that explore sexually transmitted disease, emotions, pregnancy, and more.  
- Most people that are against sex education believe should be the responsibility of parents.  
- Data have been collected to determine that there is a significant correlation between sex education and the decrease of teen pregnancy across the United States. | - The No Child Left Behind Act has defined the essentials of what students need to know: Reading, Math, Science.  
- Teaching to the test is a common problem as a result of NCLB, where teachers base curriculum on subjects only covered in NCLB.  
- As a result of testing in reading, math, and science, more time is spent on those subjects and other important subjects are ignored.  
- Social Studies is a highly affected subject because it is part of a core curriculum but is not recognized on standardized tests.  
- Foreign Language and other elective programs are being cut and not taught as a result of the increased time spent on reading, math, and science. |