



INSTRUCTION: Controversial Issues

Resource Personnel and Outside Speakers

The principal shall approve outside speakers, resource personnel, and other persons prior to their appearance before student groups. This authority carries with it the responsibility of investigating the backgrounds of persons involved. In making this decision the following shall be considered:

1. Personal background of the individuals to appear at the school.
2. Organizations represented by the speaker or resource person.
3. Appropriateness of the subject to the maturity level of student.
4. Climate of student body and community.
5. Advisability of having a person not directly involved but knowledgeable about a given topic or organization, rather than a member of an organization or a proponent of an extreme point-of-view.
6. Advisability of placing restrictions on publicity, distribution of literature, and materials to be exhibited.

Each principal shall develop a procedure to be used in seeking approval for outside speakers and resource persons and shall maintain a file of these requests. Since an all-inclusive composite listing of approved speakers, resource persons, organizations, and issues of debate is not feasible, the principal shall exercise his authority and good judgment in handling all matters relative to the approval or disapproval of outside guests and the discussion of controversial issues.

Principals are not obligated to approve any speaker by virtue of the speaker's appearance at another school in Baltimore County. Principals should feel free to consult with the area directors and coordinators.

A suggested form which may be used in processing requests of this nature may be found on the following page.

Rule
Approved: 9/25/69

Superintendent of Schools