

Importance:

Providing high-quality resources when teaching issues is of vital importance for students in understanding multiple perspectives of controversial issues. It should be clear to the students where the source comes from. It is acceptable to use a biased source if students are asked to evaluate that aspect of the source. It is also critical to use a variety of types of sources such as print, video, charts, graphs, photographs and/or interviews.

Ideas for use:

Many quality lessons begin with an engaging question to get students thinking about a topic. The questions can deal with a current, local topic such as: Should wind turbines be placed in your community? Or it could be a historical question: Who started the Cold War? Once the question is narrowed it then becomes easier to search for materials to support multiple answers. It is often easier to start with resources that are quickly available like a textbook with available teacher materials.

Resources:

Most of these resources are directed at teachers and provide suggested lesson plans. These can be a good starting point for finding quality materials in a short amount of time.

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

The ECB is committed to providing high-quality instructional resources designed to meet the needs of Wisconsin educators with a wide variety of curricular materials.

<http://billofrightsinstitute.org/>

Good information about America's founders, liberties, documents, free society. E-lessons and materials. Some cost money, but free section also.

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

This site was developed to provide teachers with a full range of resources and activities to support the teaching of landmark Supreme Court cases, helping students explore the key issues of each case.

<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/>

This is the Library of Congress website for teachers. Good for teaching students about primary sources: lesson plans, activities. Learning Page: community center features themes etc. American Memory Project, Today in History, Music/Theatre/Dance, Local Legacies, Lyrical Legacy. Lots of other teacher resources.

<http://www.crf-usa.org/deliberating-in-a-democracy/>

This site is from the Constitutional Rights Foundation and has great resources for teaching about issues ranging from mandatory voting and cloning.

<http://teachertube.com/video>

Video clips designed for use in the classroom.

<http://www.publicagenda.com/>

A website that features many controversial issues and materials to explain the issue along with supporting materials.

For an example of using *ENGAGE* video resources to supplement a Structured Academic Controversy, please visit <http://www.ecb.org/engage> and click on the Teach It! link.