

626 Instructional Media

Background

The abundance of media resources readily accessible to today's educators is staggering in its potential to enrich and enliven our instructional practices. While the effect of this abundance is largely positive, its potential for misuse leads the Administration of District 110, Waconia Public Schools, to establish the following guidelines to assist teachers.

Policy

A teacher employing a piece of media in the classroom must make a responsible assessment of and management plan for the multiple impacts of the media he/she employs.

It is the educational value of the piece of media that must be preeminent in the decision making of the teacher.

Teachers must be guided by the classifications for recommended viewership of the media industry when and where it exists.

- Teachers may not expose students to media that has not been previewed and determined to be appropriate.
- If previewing is impossible as with live breaking news coverage, teachers must monitor what is being shown for its appropriateness to the age and sensitivities of the viewers and be ready to interrupt viewing and manage the various personal responses among their students.

Teachers may not condone the use of media in classrooms that has been illegally or inappropriately procured.

Teachers have a responsibility to provide an alternative educational experience to students who object or whose parents object to their engagement with a piece of media. Please refer to School Board Policy #609.

Guidelines

It is recognized that a piece of media can have multiple concurrent purposes often including but not limited to the following: education, entertainment, amusement, politics, marketing, shock, and pacification.

- Worksheets or viewer guides often enhance the educational benefit of a viewing.
- Placing a piece of media in historical or intellectual context can enhance the educational benefit of a viewing.
- Discussing or debriefing the piece viewed should be the most common practice.

Age Appropriate

It is self-evident that not all media is appropriate to all ages of students in the classroom. For classified media G ratings allow the widest possible audiences; PG rated pieces should suggest

caution particularly as applied to younger students; R rated pieces are generally not appropriate for school aged children; X rated pieces are never appropriate.

With so many access points providing media that is unrated, teachers need to respond to the following guides:

- Excerpts of media pieces that would not be appropriate if the piece were shown in its entirety might be used with judicious management and prior explanation.

Cumulative Exposure

Teachers need to manage the cumulative exposure of a grade level or group of students to constant media exposure. Students should not be able to accurately describe a day before a vacation as a “movie” day in all their classes.

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Independent School District No. 110
Waconia, MN