

Chapter 9: Textbooks, Curriculum, E-Learning, and Instruction

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Censorship Issues

- ◉ General reasons of censorship:
 - > Sexual Content (including sex ed books)
 - > Offensive language (including racial slurs)
 - > Anti-Christian or endorsement of other religion
 - > Objections to historical interpretations, environmentalism, feminism, and discussions of government
 - > Unsuitable for age group (violence)

Censored Items

- ◉ School text books
- ◉ Library books
- ◉ Websites
- ◉ Standardized tests

School text books

- ◉ Texas and California; are they helping or hindering education?
 - > Should students be given the choice to read books from different view points?
 - > Should parents?
 - > Should the government or school administration?
 - > If none of these, who makes the choice?

The most commonly banned books pertain to the subject matters of history, science, math, and health (sex ed).

Library books

- ◉ Should a child be limited to the educational possibilities provided to them by a variety of literature?
 - > Should students be given the choice to read books from different view points?
 - > Should parents?
 - > Should the government or school administration?
 - > If none of these, who makes the choice?

Some books that have been banned include the Harry Potter series, A Wrinkle in Time, and The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

Websites

- ◉ In schools, if you receive funding for computers with internet capabilities, you must filter the content.
- ◉ In Virginia, all public K-12 schools are required to teach internet safety.
- ◉ Since it's a relatively new field, censorship is still difficult to manage.

Standardized Tests

- ◉ Should standardized tests be censored?
- ◉ Should minority groups be taken into account?
- ◉ Who should decide the standards?

Curriculum: What should be taught?

- Kliebard's four types of curriculum:
 - > Social efficiency- focuses on preparation for work force
 - > Humanism- general intellectual skills
 - Essentialist- common core curriculum for all
 - > Social meliorism- curriculum to make students aware of social reform
 - > Developmentalism- focuses on the needs of the individual, psychological needs

Curriculum: Terms to know.

- ◉ Social reconstructionists- stress social studies in order to produce a student who is politically and economically savvy
- ◉ Free schools- students have the choice of what to learn

John Dewey and Progressive Education

- ◉ Extrinsic motivation doesn't work, it has to be intrinsic
- ◉ Knowledge has a social origin, not religious
- ◉ Child-centered education

Instuction

◎ Larry Cuban

- › if properly executed, his theories have the potential to positively impact a student's learning
- › Activity program: stresses interaction between students and teachers in the selection of subject matter
- › Project method: uses individual and group projects to learn
- › Open classroom: student directed learning; students should take an active role in their education, not a passive one
- › Competency based instruction: develop object, figure out how to meet the objective, understand all steps taken to meet objective (assessment)

Critical Pedagogy

- ◉ Paulo Freire, worked with social issues and the oppressed
 - > Objectification: to read or write about one's actions
 - > Codification- 5 stages, aides critical thinking
 - > Three levels of learning
 - Teachers learn about surroundings
 - How they think about the world
 - And then why they think about the world the way they do. (Reflection)

