

However, they are complete enough to be understood by students with little experience beyond being normal TV viewers. The text provides tools to be used in the classroom and in front of the TV. The application of classical rhetoric to TV provides a method for teachers to help TV viewers become more critical and thus able to make TV viewing a positive experience.

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Committee on Classroom Practices in Teaching English invites educators at all levels--elementary, secondary and college--to submit manuscripts for the 1980 Classroom Practices publication which will focus on the theme, "Dealing with Differences in the English Classroom." Articles should describe in detail a single lesson, method or strategy for building the English competence of students in the regular classroom who are physically, emotionally, or mentally handicapped, who are non-native speakers of English, who speak a nonstandard dialect, who are gifted and talented, or who are nontraditional students. Manuscripts can range in length from two to ten pages. Two copies should be submitted with the author's name and address appearing only on a title page attached to the front of each copy. Manuscripts should be mailed before April 15, 1980 to the committee chair, Dr. Gene Stanford, Director, Child Life and Education, Children's Hospital, 219 Bryant Street, Buffalo, New York 14222.

LESSON PLANS

Mary L. Westerberg
Censorship Chairperson
MCTE

Today, all of us are affected by censorship, both overt and covert. If we have not been the object of a censor, we have had the symptoms -- sweating palms and quickening heart -- as we have read or seen what a censor can do.. As the censor will not go away, English teachers must prepare themselves with strategies and direction.

One course of action is inaction. Where will this lead? It will lead to frustrated teachers, cheated students, and advanced "Dick and Jane" materials in the classroom.

To take informed action is a better course. One source of information on positive action is the NCTE. Through its pamphlets, "The Students' Right to Read" and "'Censorship: Don't Let It Become an Issue in Your Schools," NCTE can show teachers how to be prepared. These pamphlets have sections on such important issues as setting up book selection policies, dealing with complaints, and developing community support for Language Arts programs.

A second source of help is the Minnesota Coalition Against Censorship (MCTE is a member). Soon the MCAC will offer a service to schools. School districts will be able to check their book selection policies against a check list of minimum requirements. On April 26, 1980, the MCAC is sponsoring a workshop--Censorship in a Democratic Society. One section will concentrate on dealing with pressure groups.

A third source is the MCTE. The Censorship Committee will sponsor a session, "The Politics of Censorship" at the spring conference. Also, teachers will have the opportunity to record, on a questionnaire, any attempts at censorship with which they have dealt.

By using these sources, informed teachers will have positive plans and courses of action to combat attempts at censorship. Without information and plans, teachers will be at the mercies of the censor.

Please direct further questions to:

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CALL FOR PAPERS

Great River Review, a journal of midcontinental literature, welcomes submissions of articles on midwestern writers of significance. Contemporary writers and worthy authors from the past, some of whom have been neglected, are of interest to us. The best length for such pieces is a maximum of 5,000 words. In addition, we continue to be interested in submissions of quality fiction and poetry. Send to: Great River Review, P. O. Box 14805, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414. Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope large enough to accommodate your manuscript if it should be returned.

ACROSS-THE-BOARD AND BED ARE DIRTY WORDS?

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A high school teacher of business education at Palm Bay High School (Rockledge, Florida) charged that The Random House Dictionary of the English Language--College Edition contains 23 "vulgaries." She filed a formal complaint with the school board of Brevard County, requesting that the dictionary not be used in the schools. The teacher warned that continued use of the dictionary in classrooms "could lead to widespread usage of these vulgarities by students. They could feel that these words are permissible language since they are included in classroom dictionaries."¹

The task force appointed by the superintendent to review the dictionary disagreed with the business teacher. The teachers, administrators, and parent on the task force concluded that students would not use the words frequently nor think they were permissible simply because they are in a dictionary. "Children of this age have already learned what is appropriate or inappropriate language," the task force noted. "This dictionary clearly labels the words slang or vulgar. The definitions are not sensationalized."²

Thus, the RHD is probably safe at Palm Bay High School for the remainder of 1979 at least. But what will be its fate elsewhere? Will concerned teachers and parents in other communities look up

¹Orlando Sentinel-Star, January 17, 1979.

²Ibid.