

1980

## A Tip about Controversy

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### Recommended Citation

Hungerford, James (1980) "A Tip about Controversy," *Iowa Science Teachers Journal*: Vol. 17: No. 1, Article 6.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.uni.edu/istj/vol17/iss1/6>

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## A Tip About Controversy

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Under certain circumstances, scientific theory may conflict with the existing views of the community in which you teach. Such controversy, if handled properly, may serve as a vehicle for stimulating learning and understanding. Such issues, handled improperly, often result in chaos for everyone involved. As a professional educator, the responsibility for "if" and "how" controversial issues are faced in the classroom is yours.

If you decide to pursue a controversial issue for its educational value, you should consult your curriculum guides and local school board policies before a final decision is made. The situation should also be discussed with your colleagues and administrative supervisors. If lay people are invited to give presentations in your classroom it is best to discuss the presentation and agree upon ground rules before the presentation is made. Such foresight and planning can alleviate many unnecessary problems that arise from emotion-packed controversial issues.

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### New Career Options for Young Women

Help is on the way for young women in science. A new booklet for educators and community people who want to encourage young women to consider scientific careers is available from the Math/Science Network.

Since 1976, the Network has conducted 20 conferences reaching 7,000 women students in junior high and high schools throughout California. The 52-page booklet, *Expanding Your Horizons in Science and Mathematics*, details how to plan, conduct, evaluate, and follow-up conferences designed to increase young women's interest in mathematics and science.

Illustrated with photographs and containing comments from students, the booklet also describes how to conduct "hands-on" workshops that involve students in math and science. Suggestions are given for contacting women speakers who act as role models in science for the students, as well as ideas for raising money and generating publicity for the conferences.

To obtain a copy of the booklet, send \$3.00 to Math/Science Resource Center, Mills College, Oakland, CA 94613. For further information, call Joanne Koltnow, (415) 635-5074.

The Math/Science Network is an association of individuals and organizations established to promote the participation of women in mathematics and science and to encourage their entry into non-traditional occupations. The Network is supported by a grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York and is coordinated through Mills College, Oakland, and the Lawrence Hall of Science at the University of California, Berkeley. The booklet was supported by a grant from the Women's Educational Equity Act Program, U.S. Office of Education.