

**Sylmar Neighborhood Council, Education Committee Sharing information from "Common Sense Media".**

**What to Do When Some Topics Feel Off-the-Table**

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June is Pride month, celebrating LGBTQ+ communities across the world. Juneteenth is on June 19, and celebrates the legal emancipation of enslaved people in the U.S. Depending on where you teach, and your desire to do so, these topics might be tricky to discuss in schools or flat-out against the law.

These topics are polarizing. And even among educators you'll find a wide variety of perspectives and beliefs on these issues. Some may agree with teaching these topics; others may not. **But no matter where you fall on this spectrum, it's crucial to give students the skills they need to independently evaluate, discern, and think critically.** Social and emotional skills are also key to integrating empathy and perspective-taking. So what are some ways to foster these skills no matter the mandates you may or may not agree with?

## **Critical Thinking**

Give kids the skills to read, watch, and listen with an active and evaluative mind.

- Sometimes a gamified experience can be a great entry point for meaningful discussions, so try one of these games to get started.

Best,  
Chrissy

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