



# Lincoln Southwest High School

7001 South 14<sup>th</sup> Street Lincoln, Nebraska 68512  
(402) 436-1306 Fax (402) 436-1085

Dear Southwest Parent,

Your student is currently enrolled in Government and Politics with Mr. Thomas Nettleton. One requirement of this course is to complete 20 hours of community service. This also serves as a graduation requirement for Lincoln Public Schools. Students enrolled in Government and Politics must complete their 20 hours of community service by the end of the term.

Your student can access opportunities and ideas by visiting my website. From there you can access the LPS Community Service Directory. Each student will reflect at the beginning, middle and end regarding their community service experience. Each student must have at least 10 hours by midterm, and 20 hours complete by the end of the term.

<http://wp.lps.org/tnettle/government-and-politics/>

As part of this course students will conduct research on a controversial topic. This research is to inform our citizenry of current and potential issues and to give opportunity to hear multiple perspectives. Students will present balanced research and will discuss each issue. The official school board policy is on the back of this letter to notify you should you object to your student participating. An alternative assignment will be arranged. You can find more information about this assignment on my website under Unit 2.

If you have any questions regarding this class and/or the graduation requirement, please feel free to contact me or see the Community Service directory on my website. Please sign below to verify your knowledge of the above information.

Thank you,

Thomas Nettleton

[tnettle@lps.org](mailto:tnettle@lps.org)

<http://wp.lps.org/tnettle/government-and-politics/>

402.436.1306 ext. 66126

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Lincoln Public Schools Policy 6450 – Controversial Issues**

(As of 1-11-2014 - check for updates at the following link: <http://www.lps.org/about/policies/>)

A controversial issue involves a problem about which different individuals and groups urge conflicting courses of action. It is an issue for which society has not found consensus, and it is of sufficient significance that each proposed way of dealing with it is objectionable to some sector of the citizenry and arouses protest.

Public schools have a responsibility to include objectives and resources related to controversial issues in appropriate curriculum areas and grade levels and in classrooms and library media centers. Controversial issues are included in the curriculum to help students develop the knowledge and skills necessary to become an informed citizen in preparation for adulthood.

Through the discussion of controversial issues, teachers can help students analyze issues, investigate and consider various positions, keep an open mind and weigh alternatives, organize and present arguments, and draw intelligent conclusions.

Public schools, as an educational institution, and the individual classroom teacher have a responsibility to and should inform parents in the event that controversial issues are to be a part of the curriculum and to provide the student:

1. Opportunities to study controversial issues which have political, economic or social significance about which they will begin to have an opinion,
2. Competent instruction balancing the various and/or conflicting points of view in an atmosphere free from bias and prejudice, and
3. The right to form, identify and express his/her own opinions on controversial issues as long as a balanced presentation is made of conflicting positions.
4. Alternative learning activities if the student and/or the student's parents object to the controversial issue being studied.