

Jurisprudential Teaching Model

Description

General Problem Areas

Syntax of Jurisprudential Model

Principles of Reaction

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Description

This model is designed for students in the social studies and implies the case study method, reminiscent of legal education. Students study cases involving social problems in areas where public policy is to be made (justice and equality, poverty and power etc.) They are led to identify the public policy issues as well as options available for dealing with them and the values underlying those options. This model can be used in any area where there are public policy issues; for instance ethics in science, business and sports etc.¹

Description from another source:

This model is based on a conception of society in which people differ in their views and priorities and in which social values legitimately conflict with one another. Resolving complex, controversial issues within the context of a productive social order requires citizens who can talk to one another and successfully negotiate their differences.²

General Problem Areas²

Racial and ethnic conflict
Religious and ideological conflict
Security of the individual
Conflict among economic groups
Health, education and welfare
Security of the nation
Others

Syntax of Jurisprudential Model

1. Orientation to the case
2. Identifying the issues
3. Taking a position
4. Exploring the stance underlying the position taken
5. Refining and qualifying the position
6. Testing assumptions about facts, definitions, and consequences.

Principals of Reaction²

- Maintain a vigorous intellectual climate where all views are respected; avoid direct evaluation of students' opinions.
- See that issues are thoroughly explored
- Probe the substance of students' thinking through questioning relevance, consistency, specificity, generality, definitional clarity, and continuity.

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- Maintain dialectical style; Use confrontational dialogue, questioning student's assumptions and using specific instances (analogies) to contradict more general statements.
- Avoid taking a stand.

Contexts

To explore circumstances of historical events

To explore the existing legal

1 <http://hagar.up.ac.za/catts/learner/cooplrn/b3.html#Jurisprudential%20inquiry>

2 Models of Teaching, 4th edition; Joyce, Weil, Showers

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