

Name _____

Date _____ Per. _____

IN THE NAME OF EDUCATION
A CASE STUDY
author unknown

“If education is to serve society, then the educational process should address the needs and interests of everyone.”

Do you agree with this statement? _____ disagree? _____ Reasons why:

Dave Rawlings is the new superintendent of the Lancaster School District in Lancaster, California. Lancaster is also the headquarters for the International Flat Earth Research Society. Mr. Rawlings realizes the need to establish and maintain a favorable working relationship with the community, something the past superintendent failed to do. At the same time, Mr. Rawlings is responsible for developing the best possible educational program for the youth of the community.

The following is a copy of a letter that Mr. Rawlings recently received:

Dear Mr. Rawlings:

As president of the International Flat Earth Research Society, I request that your school district implement the teaching of the Flat Earth Theory. As a society, we believe that the Flat Earth Theory constitutes a legitimate science. See the enclosed materials for scientific proof.

As a society, we will provide the necessary text material and train your staff to teach this scientific theory. All of this at no cost to your school system.

I need not remind you that the International Flat Earth Research Society is a very influential group in your community. Failure to comply with this request will result in appropriate action.

Respectfully,

I. M. Flat
IFERS President

(continue with discussion overpage)

DISCUSSION:

Do you think Mr. Rawlings should honor the request? (yes/no)_____ Why?

To what extent are the following statements important in evaluating the above case study?
(Indicate your degree of agreement or disagreement by circling your choice.)

1. Mr. Rawlings should comply with the request to avoid a conflict that may result in his firing.
Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

2. Since the International Flat Earth Research Society is a very influential community group, Mr. Rawlings should conform to their expectations. After all, education should meet the needs of the community.
Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

3. Mr. Rawlings should base his decision on what he feels is in the best interests of all the students in the school district.
Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

4. From the above three items, select what you think is the most important statement to consider and place its number next to "Most Important" below. Then rank the other two statements and place their numbers in "second" and "third" respectively:

Most Important:_____ Second:_____ Third:_____

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IN THE NAME OF EDUCATION: A CASE STUDY
EPILOGUE

Mr. Rawlings felt that Mr. Flat's request was unreasonable. He also learned from the American Scientific Society that the Flat Earth Theory is not really scientific. He also felt that teaching the Flat Earth view would greatly diminish the quality of education.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Do you think Mr. Rawlings should have honored the Flat Earth Society's request? Why?

2. Which was right, honoring the request and meeting the needs of a special interest group, or denying the request because the Flat Earth view is not science? Explain.

3. Suppose you were a member of the International Flat Earth Research Society. Would you approve of Mr. Rawlings decision? Explain.

4. What suggestions do you have on the best way to deal with education and the desire of special interest groups to influence what is being taught?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____

5. Do your suggestions provide justice for all concerned?
