

"Life demands an ability to  
deal with the controversial. . ."

Guidelines for

# ACADEMIC FREEDOM

in the Public Schools



California Teachers Association  
Tenure & Academic Freedom Committee

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**GUIDELINES FOR  
ACADEMIC FREEDOM  
In The Public Schools**

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**California Teachers Association**

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June 1984

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
I. INTRODUCTION.....	3
A. Statement of Problem	
B. Statement of Purpose	
C. Statement of Principle	
D. Statement of Policy	
1. National Education Association	
2. California Teachers Association	
3. American Library Association	
II. ROLE OF THE LOCAL ASSOCIATION / CHECKLIST FOR SURVIVAL.....	12
III. GUIDELINES FOR NEGOTIATING ACADEMIC FREEDOM	16
IV. GUIDELINES FOR DEVELOPING BOARD POLICY.....	21
A. Controversial Issues	
1. Class Discussion	
2. Student Publications	
3. Outside Speakers	
B. Censorship and Materials Selection	
C. Academic Freedom	
V. FRIENDS - WHO THEY ARE AND WHERE TO FIND THEM.....	30
VI. ADVERSARIES - WHO THEY ARE AND WHERE TO FIND THEM.....	32
VII. BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	34

## VI. ADVERSARIES WHO THEY ARE AND WHERE TO FIND THEM

Public education in this country is no novice when it comes to vanquishing its enemies. It has faced many through the years - sometimes to protect its integrity, sometimes just to survive. But public education is currently facing the best financed, best organized threat it has ever come up against. The attacks mounted against public education in the past pale when compared to the threat from the far right, which is trying to weaken the public schools and to ultimately destroy them.

So what is new about the "New Right"? Not the extreme right wing philosophy - that's been around for some time. What is new is its organization, its methods, and its use of twentieth century technology. The New Right is a network of more than 50 arch conservative groups - a combination of the old right wing establishment and newly organized groups, ranging in ideology from ultraconservative to reactionary. The New Right is having a major impact on the political and social climate across the nation and, if not halted, poses a serious threat to some basic American institutions.

Among the institutions threatened is public education. Among the organizations targeted is the United Teaching Profession: NEA, CTA, and state and local affiliates. In almost every respect, the goals of the New Right conflict with the interest of the UTP.

However, opposing the New Right involves considerable risk, primarily because the new rightists have chosen to appeal to very emotional social issues such as gun control, abortion, Equal Rights, unionism, homosexuality, school prayer, school busing, and so-called dirty books. They have chosen to package their ideologies as the "New Americanism". Who dares take on religion, free enterprise, patriotism, and motherhood? We do - and we must!

*LAST LINE EPITOMIZES  
CTA'S SNARLING  
DEFIANCE OF  
TRADITIONAL VALUES  
AND PARENTAL  
PREROGATIVES.*

*"UTP" = "UNITED  
TEACHING PROFESSION"*