

Free Speech and Education – Synoptic Chart

	<u>Document 1</u>	<u>Document 2</u>	<u>Document 3</u>	<u>Document 4</u>	<u>Document 5</u>
	Teaching should be political : How to talk about race in the classroom	Harry Potter books removed from Catholic school 'on exorcists' advice'	Hong Kong's National Security creeps into education sector		
Main ideas rephrased	<p>What should school be? An island, an oasis protected from the dire reality of the world or a constant discussion of the world around</p> <p>The role of a teacher is not only to teach a set curriculum but to address the realities of the communities they are teaching in order to form not only students (highschoolers here) but citizens of this world that can reflect upon society => role to form minds and empower students</p> <p>Not only possibility then but duty to deviate from the program and importance of pedagogical freedom to select classroom materials that engage students and link history with contemporary debates and issues</p> <p>The role of a responsible teacher is thus to teach students to critique society, no matter the risks</p>	<p>Issue of confessional schools (primary schools here until 13-14 years old)</p> <p>Issue of removing books from the school library that are considered sinful and evil</p> <p>Different actors mentioned :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The pastor who teaches at the school > has the canonical authority to decide for his parish school - The Superintendent of schools for the Catholic diocese > supports the legitimacy of the decision - Parents - Challengers that go to great length such as book burning <p>Question of what is deemed appropriate for children at the school</p>	<p>Context of the passing of the National Security Law that is very controversial in Hong Kong</p> <p>Teachers have been forbidden from teaching (primary schools) because they used teaching materials that discussed the question of Hong Kong's independence / Students suspended from school when opposing the censoring of an exam</p> <p>Decision from the education bureau to deregister them from being political dissenters opposed to the motherland and advocated freedom from China in the classroom</p> <p>Question of the criminalization of (dissenting) political opinion sharing in the classroom</p> <p>Different actors concerned : teachers, parents, students, teachers' unions, the education bureau, Hong Kong's leader, the media</p> <p>Means to protest for free speech : protests, email campaign, Facebook posts, free publicization of alternative teaching materials online, publishing books, organizing unions' actions...</p> <p>Question of the political suppression of what is considered as « colonial education » pervading the system by those who are pro-establishment</p>	<p>Concept of free spaces in universities where nothing that is deemed offensive or distasteful can be said</p> <p>University libraries' shelves being emptied from all possibly controversial books, be it fictional, historical, scientific or religious</p> <p>Huckleberry Finn, a satirical novel denouncing racism , has been discarded in the trash</p> <p>« Safe space » policies are accused of threatening free speech in Universities, while the latter are supposed to be the place of academic debate and intellectual exchanges are being stifled</p> <p>Cases of students being ejected from meetings, speakers being banned for speaking or asking questions related to issues like feminism,</p>	<p>Teachers represented as chained/constrained, restrained in their academic freedom by the pressure of politics</p> <p>Teachers represented as fearful of that political pressure</p>

			Forced ethics training courses for teachers to bring them in line with the regime, making it hard to discuss politics freely in the city's schools	secularism, equal rights... Implementation in some places of free speech control with « safe space marshalls » monitoring speakers' behaviors during debates	
Main concepts	Critical pedagogy Pedagogical freedom Students empowerment	Book challengers Censorship	Education freedom Political suppression Censorship Anti-establishment	Safe Spaces No-platforming Academic debate	Academic freedom Political pressure
Examples / Context	In the wake of the Black Lives Matter movement	Parish schools in the Deep South of the US	Hong Kong and the Regime's new National Security Law	American and UK universities	

Main aspects tackled :

- The status of teachers and their role
- Who has authority over pedagogical content ? (in the classroom, in the library...)
- What about free speech inside and outside the classroom ?
- What are the methods used to gag free speech at school ?
- What are the consequences of speech being exercised freely at school ? For whom ?