



UTAH COUNTY ACADEMY OF SCIENCES POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

SECTION: I - Instruction
POLICY TITLE: Classroom Use of Visual Media Resources
FILE NO.: IC
DATED: October 15, 2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. PURPOSE AND PHILOSOPHY
 2. GUIDELINES FOR APPROPRIATE USE OF VISUAL MEDIA
 3. TELEVISION PROGRAMS
 4. PARENT AND GUARDIAN VIEW OF VISUAL MEDIA
 5. UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY ON CAMPUS COURSEWORK
-

1. PURPOSE AND PHILOSOPHY

Because of the availability of a large variety of movies, television programs, and audio visual resources available through the internet, herein all referred to as “visual media”, it is increasingly necessary to exercise judgment and prudence in their classroom use. All visual media must be age appropriate and should be used for educational purposes only. They may be used to initiate, enhance, or culminate teaching units. All visual media must be used under the supervision of the teacher and in compliance with applicable copyright laws and licensing agreements.

2. GUIDELINES FOR APPROPRIATE USE OF VISUAL MEDIA

- 2.1. Visual media obtained for any course must be previewed by the teacher. Any content that meets the definition of “sensitive material” as defined in Utah Code Ann. 53G-10-103 must be for a purpose as defined in the referenced code and must also be approved by an administrator who will seek additional approval, if required.
- 2.2. Educators are discouraged from using visual media which were originally produced for entertainment purposes. In some circumstances their use may be appropriate when directly related to curriculum content. However, use of any “entertainment type” visual media must be previewed in completion by the teacher and approved in advance according to the guidelines in 2.1.
- 2.3. Use of visual media in the classroom must be limited to instructional purposes, and not for entertainment or as a reward. Use of visual media in connection with school-wide entertainment or reward programs must be approved by a school administrator.
- 2.4. The instructional value of a particular piece of visual media shall be weighed against the value of the academic time it consumes. It is recommended that only those segments which illustrate the topic or curriculum content be shown rather than viewing the media in its entirety. No visual media will be used in a classroom without having first been viewed and approved by the teacher.
- 2.5. Scenes from any visual media that contain vulgarity, indecency, nudity, or excessive violence or profanity are strictly prohibited in the classroom and in any school sponsored activities. Entertainment type movies with a PG 13 rating will not be shown without parent guardian permission. Movies rated R, or NC-17 will not be shown in school or at school sponsored activities. Regardless of its rating and media that is not rated must meet the standard outlined in section 2.1 of this policy.

- 2.6. Any visual media related to maturation or healthy lifestyles must only be used after being approved by the principal and must meet the standards outlined in Utah Code Ann. 53G-10-402.
- 2.7. Students should be guided by the teacher in connecting the visual media to academic content through pre- and post-activities related to the curriculum.
- 2.8. Any media marked “For Home Use Only” may not be shown at school, even with the principal’s approval, unless a public performance license has been obtained.
- 2.9. Student generated visual media must always be previewed by the teacher before being shown to other students.

3. TELEVISION PROGRAMS

- 3.1. Broadcast television programs give the teacher no opportunity to preview or control content and should not be watched by students at school in most circumstances. Exceptions require approval by an administrator.
- 3.2. Curriculum related programs may be shown by a teacher for school instructional purposes. Any program shown should be copyrighted under “Fair-Use” copyright guidelines
- 3.3. If the program was originally produced for entertainment, rather than instructional purposes, the limitations on its use are the same as those outlined in paragraphs 2.2 and 2.3 above.
- 3.4. Students are not allowed to show programs from their personal or family streaming accounts during class time.

4. PARENT AND GUARDIAN REVIEW OF VISUAL MEDIA

- 4.1. Upon written request from a parent or guardian, the teacher will send home a list and brief description of the visual media that will be viewed as part of the curriculum during the course. Supplemental lists may be sent home as new materials become available to the teacher.
- 4.2. If the parent or guardian has a specific concern about any of these instructional materials as they affect his or her students, the parent or guardian is invited to meet with the principal and individual teacher to discuss the concern. Efforts will be made by the teacher and principal to resolve the concern. Alternative learning activities of equal curricular value may be offered by the teacher or suggested by the parent or guardian. Students will not be expected to view work in question until the concern can be resolved.

5. UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY (UVU) ON CAMPUS COURSEWORK

UVU course curriculum under the direction of the college is not subject to this policy.

REFERENCES

UTAH CODE ANN. § 53G-10-103
Utah Code Ann. § 53G-10-402

FORMS

None

HISTORY

Approved – October 15, 2024. Updates to include current media trends such as online content. Reference to sensitive material standard updated.

Approved – March 20, 2018.

Approved – February 15, 2005.
