


First Amendment Best Practices: A Learning and Teaching Matrix

| Acquire knowledge of religions: | Ability to: | Commitment to: |
|---|--|---|
| Basics: Origins, beliefs, practices | Distinguish between academic & devotional approaches | Respect each students' right to religious belief & identity or none; Never coerce, proselytize, or impose beliefs or practices |
| Traditions: Embedded in culture | Be fair & balanced in presentation | Respect each tradition; Never advantage or denigrate any tradition; Provide for equity in instruction among traditions |
| Diverse: Internal & across traditions | Encourage free & respectful diverse dialogue | Build capacity to listen; Raise students' awareness of & curiosity toward other traditions; |
| <p>Change over time: Historical, social, political, cultural, & personal interpretations.</p> <p>Source: Diane L. Moore, 2008 & 2010; AAR 2010; NCSS Religion Companion 2018; based on religious literacy definition; Rev. 2019</p> | <p>Manage diversity & disagreements;</p> <p>Goal is understanding, not debating to win argument.</p> | <p>Encourage students' free expression of religion;</p> <p>Encourage respectful reciprocal expressions;</p> <p>Remind that it is legitimate to hold complex thoughts in one's mind.</p> <div style="text-align: right;">  </div> |