

EDUC 203: Assignment – Law

You will complete the following Law Assignment – (Due: March 5)

Information Guide: A Parent’s Guide to Religion in the Public Schools

OR

Information Guide: A Teacher’s Guide to Religion in the Public Schools

Theoretically, in the United States, we live in a society where there is a ‘separation of church and state’; all public schools are to be ‘secular’. While some agree with this separation, others are very critical. Some parents have been very vocal about the topic of religion in the public schools. **You are to take the information from the Anti-defamation League and create a very attractive, user-friendly document for parents OR teachers.** There are no page requirements (no specific number of pages), but there are very strict stylistic, technical, and content requirements.

Stylistic and Technical Requirements: The Guide MUST –

- Be very user friendly & attractive** – use as many sheets of paper as you wish – make sure the information is easy to read – **use graphics** – **it must be attractive!**
 - Text-heavy, boring, unattractive documents with no pictures will receive an automatic grade of ZERO = NO RESUBMITS!**
 - Be grammatically correct** – no one wants to read a document riddled with grammatical errors – **more than two errors will automatically lower your grade by one letter: NO EXCEPTIONS!**
 - Give credit to the Anti-defamation League.**
 - Be accurate!** Misinformation would be a disaster here, so don’t guess or include any personal opinions.
 - Include information over all of the main components of the Anti-defamation League document.**
- You will turn this sheet in with your document. You must go through and check off each requirement prior to submission.

Content Requirements

All of the following topics must be covered:

The First Amendment

Prayer: In Classrooms/At Assemblies/At Athletic Events/At Graduation/Baccalaureate Services

Moment of Silence & Student's Right to Pray – Free Exercise of Religion

See You at the Pole

Pledge of Allegiance

Distribution of Gideon Bibles

Equal Access Act: Student Led Religious Clubs

Holiday Celebrations

Content Requirements: A Teacher's Guide to Religion in the Public Schools

Primary Source: The First Amendment Center – *A Teacher's Guide to Religion in the Public Schools*

All of the following questions must be covered/answered:

Teaching About Religion in the Public Schools

- Is it constitutional?
- Why should study about religion be included in the curriculum?
- Is study about religion included in textbooks and standards?
- How should I teach about religion?
- Which religions should be taught and how much should be said?
- May I invite a guest speaker to help with study about religion?
- What is the relationship between religion and character education?

The Personal Beliefs of Teachers

- May I pray or otherwise practice my faith while at school?
- How do I respond if students ask about my religious beliefs?

The Religious Expression of Students

- May students express religious views in public schools? In their assignments?
- How should public schools respond to excusal requests from parents?
- May public schools accommodate students with special religious needs?
- May students form extracurricular religious clubs?

