

Thinking about contentious issues in the Economics classroom



Thinking about the issue

- What is a contentious issue in economics?
- Why should we support our students in learning about these issues?
- What stance should a teacher take on these issues?
- What is the goal to be reached?
- What is the best way to frame a contentious issue?
- What methodologies work best when approaching these issues?
- How does discussing contentious issues develop senior cycle skills?



Contentious Issue toolkit

- How will I raise awareness of the issue? Newspaper, podcast, video, picture?
- How should the issue be framed?
- Have questions been framed to reflect a structural focus (non-personal) ?
- How will I encourage discussion?
- How will I facilitate debate?
- How will I develop critical thinking?



Putting it all together

- Have I planned carefully?
- What responses can I expect from the students?
- How will I ensure students are exposed to multiple perspectives?
- Am I building on the key skills in senior cycle?
- Am I promoting active student involvement?
- Am I providing time for individual student evaluation & reflection?