

*The Place of Moral and Political Issues in Language Pedagogy*¹

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In the process of second language learning, must learners inevitably grapple with ethical, moral, and religious issues in the classroom? This essay contains arguments for and against facing such issues in our classrooms and offers a rationale for giving learners an opportunity to engage in critical thinking on questions of global importance, while still respecting learners' own beliefs and attitudes. Practical examples of these critical thinking activities from around the world and across a wide variety of cultural norms are described. Among the topics discussed include peace education, environmental action, human rights, racial and ethnic discrimination, gender equality, and political philosophy.