

[Indoctrination Laws and Guidelines for Schools](#)

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The [Gore Global Warming controversies](#) * re: truth or otherwise of his film, books, speeches, etc. has at least exposed a lot more food for thought. To me, the most important outcome so far has been the revealing of the existence of anti-indoctrination legislation in the English School Act, 1996. How many of our School Acts in the states, provinces, countries have similar sections, and if not, why not — given present politics in schools?

Section 406 of the UK Education Act says that local education authorities, school governing bodies and head teachers "shall forbid...the promotion of partisan political views in the teaching of any subject in the school".

And if political issues are brought to the attention of pupils, the authority, the governors and the head are required by Section 407 to take "such steps as are reasonably practicable to secure that...they are offered a balanced presentation of opposing views".

The High Court Judge, Mr. Justice Burton, stated that "there would have been a breach of sections 406 and 407 ...but for the bringing of these proceedings... ". He awarded two-thirds costs against the Government. At least one can be grateful that in England there was an Act and courts to provide some remedy to the parent who brought this case forward (Mr Stewart Dimmock) however costly it was to him. Society benefits when captive audiences of students in schools are presented balanced pictures of controversial issues.

The Judge did NOT forbid the showing of the film but did require amended guidelines to apply:

GUIDELINES for showing “An Inconvenient Truth”

- 1. The Film is a political work and promotes only one side of the argument.**
- 2. If teachers present the Film without making this plain they may be in breach of section 406 of the Education Act 1996 and guilty of political indoctrination.**
- 3. Nine inaccuracies have to be specifically drawn to the attention of school children.**

* The Times Online story is still there (Feb 09/08) and includes the 9 pictures which illustrate the 9 inconvenient untruths that must accompany any showing of the Gore film in British schools. See link below for Al Gore’s Inconvenient Judgment and the Nine Errors in pictures:

http://business.timesonline.co.uk/tol/business/law/corporate_law/article2633838.ece (101 comments)

Nine errors are: <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/science/article2632660.ece> (67 Comments)

Error one

Al Gore: A sea-level rise of up to 20 feet would be caused by melting of either West Antarctica or Greenland “in the near future”.

The judge’s finding: “This is distinctly alarmist and part of Mr Gore’s ”wake-up call“. It was common ground that if Greenland melted it would release this amount of water - “but only after, and over, millennia.”

Error two

Gore: Low-lying inhabited Pacific atolls are already “being inundated because of anthropogenic global warming.”

Judge: There was no evidence of any evacuation having yet happened.

Error three

Gore: The documentary described global warming potentially “shutting down the Ocean Conveyor” - the process by which the Gulf Stream is carried over the North Atlantic to western Europe.

Judge: According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), it was “very unlikely” it would be shut down, though it might slow down.

Error four

Gore: He asserted - by ridiculing the opposite view - that two graphs, one plotting a rise in CO₂ and the other the rise in temperature over a period of 650,000 years, showed “an exact fit”.

Judge: Although there was general scientific agreement that there was a connection, “the two graphs do not establish what Mr Gore asserts”.

Error five

Gore: The disappearance of snow on Mt Kilimanjaro was expressly attributable to global warming.

Judge: This “specifically impressed” David Miliband, the Environment Secretary, but the scientific consensus was that it cannot be established that the recession of snows on Mt Kilimanjaro is mainly attributable to human-induced climate change.

Error six

Gore: The drying up of Lake Chad was used in the film as a prime example of a catastrophic result of global warming, said the judge.

Judge: “It is generally accepted that the evidence remains insufficient to establish such an attribution. It is apparently considered to be far more likely to result from other factors, such as population increase and over-grazing, and regional climate variability.”

Error seven

Gore: Hurricane Katrina and the consequent devastation in New Orleans to global warming.

Judge: There is “insufficient evidence to show that”.

Error eight

Gore: Referred to a new scientific study showing that, for the first time, polar bears were being found that had actually drowned “swimming long distances - up to 60 miles - to find the ice”.

Judge: “The only scientific study that either side before me can find is one which indicates that four polar bears have recently been found drowned because of a storm.” That was not to say there might not in future be drowning-related deaths of bears if the trend of regression of pack ice continued - “but it plainly does not support Mr Gore’s description”.

Error nine

Gore: Coral reefs all over the world were bleaching because of global warming and other factors.

Judge: The IPCC had reported that, if temperatures were to rise by 1-3 degrees centigrade, there would be increased coral bleaching and mortality, unless the coral could adapt. But separating the impacts of stresses due to climate change from other stresses, such as over-fishing, and pollution was difficult.

IMPORTANT: In the cause of BALANCE, those who are interested in the topic or use this film or others (eg: Great Global Warming Swindle) for teaching purposes should also read the comments that accompany online stories. This adds greatly to the conversation and truth-seeking.

ALSO, as some have regrettably found, online stories disappear after time. If you want to keep these conversations going, DO produce CD’s or DVD’s of the presentations for posterity. TA