



“Down with the Death penalty!”

Using “Hot Topics” with a Twist to Introduce Persuasive Advocacy and Legal Ethics



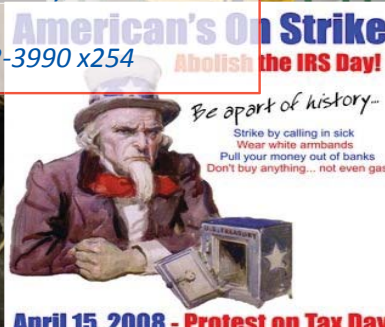
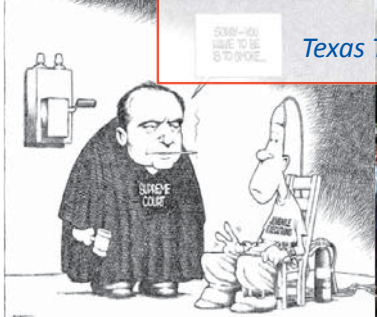
“Professor, how could you ask me to argue for something that I am whole-heartedly against?”

Ask students to argue in opposition of their views on “Hot Topics”. Because the students are not arguing “their” side of the issue, they often do so in a lackluster manner; some common gestures are rolling eyes, downcast heads, and shuffling feet.

Discussion Points:

- ABA MRPC, Rule 1.3, “A lawyer must...act with commitment and dedication to the interests of the client and with zeal in advocacy upon the client’s behalf.” (zealous advocacy does not include eye rolling or making disgusted faces during argument)
- ABA MRPC, Rule 1.2, Comment 5, “Legal representation should not be denied to people who are unable to afford legal service, or whose cause is controversial or the subject of popular disapproval. By the same token, representing a client does not constitute approval of the client’s views or activities.”
- Attorneys represent clients to ensure that every American has equal access to this country’s justice system and to ensure that judges apply the law fairly and consistently to every citizen, no matter the “Hot Topic.”

Kimberly D. Phillips, Deputy Director, Center for Military Law and Policy, Assistant Professor of Legal Practice Texas Tech University/1802 Hartford Ave./Lubbock, TX 79409/ 806-742-3990 x254



April 15, 2008 - Protest on Tax Day