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## Professorial Rants Par For The Course

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I can recall it happening at least twice during my college education. Once a professor outright claimed that President Bush was a murderer because he had OK'd an execution. The other time a Spanish teacher said she hoped none of us were Republicans. I'm an independent, but I still found her political rant a waste of class time.

But those instances were in a college setting, where opining from professors has become the norm. Recent examples show that similar diatribes occur in secondary education as well.

One involved a Colorado geography teacher who said Bush's State of the Union Address sounded "a lot like the things that Adolf Hitler used to say."

Another was a mock war-crimes trial in a New Jersey high school classroom, where President Bush was brought up on charges of "crimes against civilian populations" and "inhumane treatment of prisoners."

The key difference between high school and college is, most notably, the age of the students - although in my experience, I haven't noticed much difference in maturity.

College professors may, for the most part, have greater expertise in the subjects they teach. Of course, even that doesn't mean their opinions are worth hearing.

Given the education gap between our country and others, many students would be a lot better off if teachers just stopped the opining altogether and got back to the facts.

Some have said that to deny teachers their rants is to deny their freedom of speech or "academic freedom."

If I am chastised for going on a rant at my job, I'll be sure to appeal to my right to free speech - at which point my employer will be likely to appeal to my right to find another job.

Teachers, particularly in public schools, are paid to teach facts and not to spout off their political beliefs.

Adam Fowler has a degree in political science and works at Busch Gardens. Keyword: Community Columnists, to

read other recent columns.

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