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When Do You Tell Them? Information Restriction in a Troubled World

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ABSTRACT The relationship between students and teachers is usually one of sharing of information, and teachers in particular are charged with providing useful instruction to their students on a formal and informal basis. However, sometimes information flows are blocked by teachers, perhaps partially because of attitudes and standards adopted from the larger community. Certain types of information may be secret, or may be withheld “in the interests of the students.” Breaking through the taboo of restricting information may depend on human development, age and stage issues, such that only with appropriate timing can the restrictions be removed. However, finding an agreed upon time to break through with the dissemination of important information is an arbitrary matter at best. The earlier students can be informed about difficult matters, the sooner they can and will engage in helping solve the coming problems that affect societies around the world.