

Book Banning

Book banning, a form of censorship, occurs when private individuals, government officials, or organizations remove books from libraries, school reading lists, or bookstore shelves because they object to their content, ideas, or themes.

Censorship generally refers to controlled, forbidden, punished, or prohibited speech or expression.

A **Challenge** is an attempt to remove or restrict materials, based upon the objections of a person or group.

10 Reasons Books Are Challenged and Banned

LGBTQ Content

Sexually Explicit

Profanity

Racism

Violence

Religious Viewpoint

Sex Education

Suicide

Drug and Alcohol Use

Nudity

What are the positive effects of banned books?

Banned books often deal with subjects that are realistic, timely, and topical. Young people may find a character going through exactly what they are, which makes it a powerful reading experience and helps the reader sort out thorny issues like grief, divorce, sexual assault, bullying, prejudice, and sexual identity.

During the first half of the 2022-23 school year PEN America's Index of School Book Bans lists **1,477** instances of individual books banned, affecting **874** unique titles, an increase of 28% compared to the prior 6 months, January – June 2022.

Should certain books be banned from school libraries?

Should banning a book be dependent on a student's grade or age?

Should books be banned from public libraries?

Think about our earlier years, Peyton Place, Ulysses, Lady Chatterley's Lover?

Who decides?