

Red, Blue, & ~~WHITE-OUT~~

In recent years, there has been a national cry from parent-founded censor groups and politicians to remove visual media, literature, and lessons that include non-societal conforming topics from our public school libraries. We, as educational institutions, stand against this movement to censor information from future generations! Read below to see how you can join the fight against censorship and book banning in your public school libraries.

What Books Are Being Removed?

Since 2021, nearly 3,000 book titles have been challenged and/or removed from public school libraries due to their “inappropriate themes, messages, and topics”

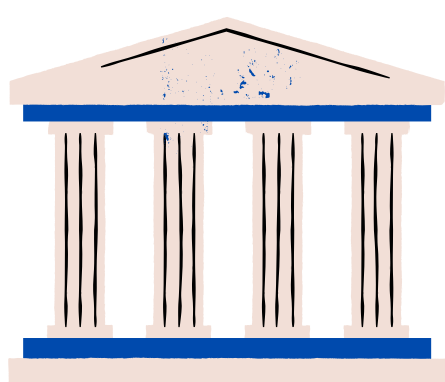
A majority of these titles regarded topics of LGBTQIA+, Indigenous, Black, and People of Color communities. Other challenged titles included classics like George Orwell’s 1984 and Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck.



Who’s Being Affected?

The main target for these book bans are public school libraries, for grades K-12, but censorship has extended up to higher education institutions. This type of widespread censorship inhibits the informational needs of adults, higher-ed students, educators, and entire communities.

Classes, books, lectures and more that talk about critical race theory, gender, sexuality, religion, science, politics, and more are disappearing all across the nation.



Why Is This Important?

Students learn about critical life lessons and self-identity through these various books and develop healthy understandings of their communities and the hardships other people face. It creates moral character in young minds

When individuals are not able to read literature that represents their gender, culture, sexuality, religion, or other identities, they are unable to develop a sense of self or place within their communities. Sometimes these books are the only place they see equal representation or acceptance of who they see themselves as.



What Action Can I Take In My Community?



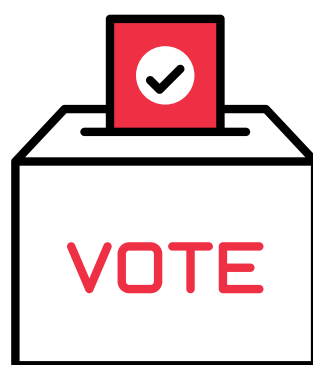
Participating in local general and schoolboard elections, supporting public library events, and serving as a voice for your community are great ways to get involved!

Your local public institutions are feeling the backlash of this national call for censorship and book banning. Talking with your local librarians, political leaders, friends, and family is a key first step to becoming a part of the solution!

How Can I Help People Across the Nation?

By doing your civic duty! Voting in your state and national elections, remaining informed on campaigns, and holding your friends and family accountable to do the same are crucial!

If you are not of age to vote in elections, helping your parent(s) or guardian stay informed on current events and campaigns is another great way to be involved!



Where Can I Learn More About This?



At your local library! You can also visit advocacy organization websites like PEN America, the ALA, ACLU, Freedom to Read Initiative, and more to keep current on events, enacted policy, and calls to action!

Don’t forget, with your public library card, you can have hundreds of physical and online resources at your fingertips, free internet access, and a safe space to learn whenever needed!