

Intellectual Freedom in the Era of Book Banning

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1

Agenda

- Introduction
- Current State of Censorship
- Book Challenges
- Difficult Conversations
- Intellectual Freedom Resources

2

Introduction

3

Intellectual Freedom: "right of every individual to both seek and receive information from all points of view without restriction. It provides for free access to all expressions of ideas through which any and all sides of a question, cause or movement may be explored." ALA <https://www.ala.org/advocacy/infreedom/censorship/faq>

Censorship: "Limiting or removing access to words, images, or ideas. The decision to restrict or deny access is made by a governing authority. This could be a person, group, or organization/business. Censorship by the government is illegal." ALA <https://www.ala.org/advocacy/infreedom/censorship/faq>

Book Ban: "The removal of materials from a library based on the objections of a person or group." ALA <https://www.ala.org/advocacy/infreedom/censorship/faq>

Weaponized Language: "the process by which words, discourse, and language in any form have been used or are being used to inflict harm on others, and how language, education practices, policies, programs, and curricula are weaponized." Herrera & Bryan, 2022 <https://scholarworks.u.edu/article/download>

Gaslighting: "a form of psychological manipulation that hinges on creating self-doubt." <https://www.forbes.com/health/mind/what-is-gaslighting/>

Operational Definitions



4

Current State of Censorship

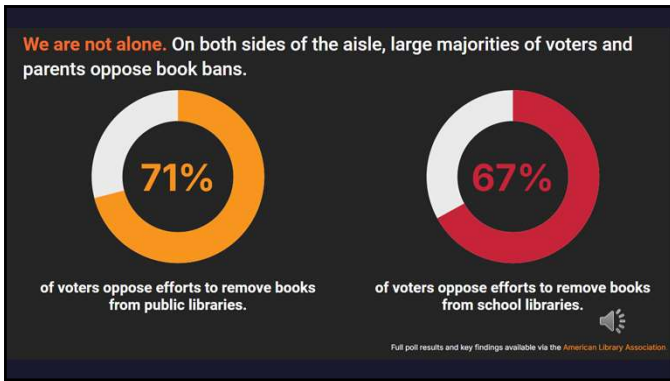
U.S.
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Montana Laws




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For Everyone Content is appropriate for all ages	Child Guidance Some content may not be appropriate for very young children	Teen Guidance Some content may not be appropriate for children under 13	Minor Restricted Under 18 requires guidance of parent or guardian	No Minors Adult content, No child under 18	Aberrant Content Adult only
0	1	2	3	4	5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mild Inexplicit violence No Hate No Nudity No Profanity No References to Sexuality, Gender Ideologies, or Sexual Activities No Drug or Alcohol Use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mild violence Mild/Infrequent Hate Mild/Infrequent Profanity Non-Sexual nudity excluding genitalia No References to Sexual Activities No Drug or Alcohol Use Inexplicit Sexuality Inexplicit Gender Ideologies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderate Violence Moderate Hate Moderate Profanity Non-Sexual Nudity including genitalia Inexplicit Sexual Nudity/Sexual Activities Drug or Alcohol Use Explicit Sexuality Explicit Gender Ideologies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excessive/Explicit violence Extreme/Frequent Hate Excessive/Frequent Profanity References to Sexual Activities (NOT including genitalia, condoms, fetters, or ejaculation) Drug or Alcohol Abuse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explicit Sexual Nudity (Exposures of sexual organs in a state of arousal) "Obscene" References to Sexual Activities (Including one (one) or multiple terms: Impregnation, anal/oral intercourse, fingering, anal/oral penetration) Drug or Alcohol Abuse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explicit References to Aberrant Sexual Activities (sexual assault/battery, bestiality, or pedophilia/child abuse)

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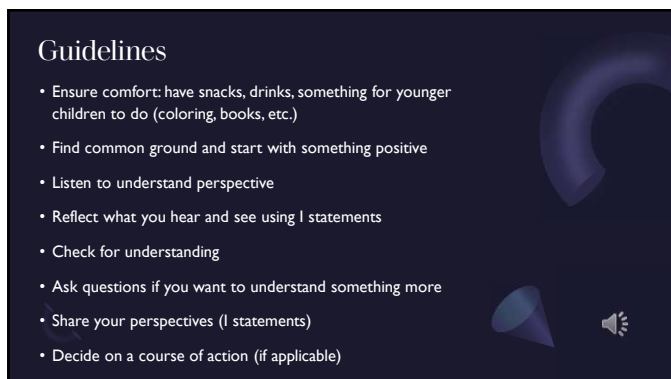
SB 99

- "Any school implementing or maintaining a curriculum, providing materials, or holding an event or assembly at which the district provides human sexuality instruction, whether introduced by school educators, administrators, or officials or by guests invited at the request of the school, shall adopt a policy ensuring parental or guardian notification no less than 48 hours prior to holding an event or assembly or introducing materials for instructional use."
- "For purposes of this section, "human sexuality instruction" means teaching or otherwise providing information about human sexuality, including intimate relationships, human sexual anatomy, sexual reproduction, sexually transmitted infections, sexual acts, sexual orientation, gender identity, abstinence, contraception, or reproductive rights and responsibilities."

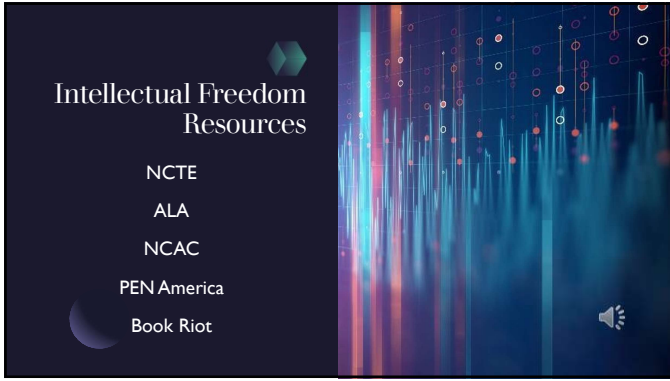
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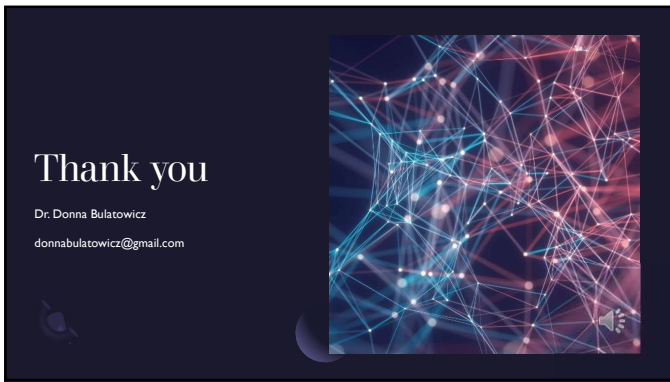
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14
