

Banned Books Week

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What is Banned Books Week?

Banned Books Week is a week to raise awareness against book banning. Banned Books Week started in 1982 when the American Bookseller's Association (ABA) teamed up with the Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF) and the National Association of College Stores in an effort to speak up against people trying to restrict access to books in schools based on the book's contents. Now, Banned Books Week reaches an estimated 2.8 billion people. Each Year, OIF chooses a theme for Banned Books Week. This Year's theme is "Let Freedom Read."

What is book banning?

Book banning is making books less accessible to teens and kids. This is one of the biggest forms of censorship throughout the U.S. Books are usually made less accessible by removing the book from school libraries or moving the book from the teen and children's section to the adult section. Book challenging is where individuals or organizations step forward and say why a book should be banned. When a book is challenged, the one(s) trying to ban the book often use out-of-context passages and quotations.

Sources

https://americanlibrariansmagazine.org/2017/11/01/50-years-office-intellectual-freedom/
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Who this affects and why is this important

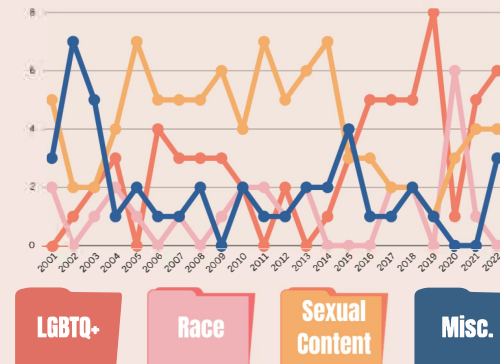
Since most of these books are being banned for including content about marginalized groups, banning these books means we are restricting opportunities for kids and teens to learn about and understand social topics such as racism and homophobia.

Which books are being banned?

Books can be challenged for a number of reasons. For the past 20 years, the three most common reasons have been LGBTQ+ content, racial content, or sexual content. The most banned book in 2021 and 2022 was *Gender Queer* by Maia Kobabe. Both years it was banned for having LGBTQ+ content.

Out of the top 100 banned books from 2010-2019:
 19 were banned for LGBTQ+ content
 7 were banned for race content
 47 were banned for sexual content
 26 were banned for other reasons

Reasons for Banning top 10 books from 2001-2022



The graph above shows the development of the different reasons the top 10 books were banned over the past 21 years.

Historically, sexual content has been a cover for LGBTQ+ content

