

INCLUDES GOOGLE™ SLIDES

CENSORSHIP

↩ THEN & NOW ↪

INCLUDES GOOGLE™ SLIDES

HISTORY OF BOOK CENSORSHIP

THE LIBRARY OF ALEXANDRIA



- 640 AD—Egypt—Caliph Omar burned all 200,000 volumes in the Library of Alexandria
- The books either supported the Koran and were unnecessary, or they opposed the Koran and needed to be destroyed
- The books were used as fuel to warm the city's baths
- It is said to have taken six months to burn all the paper in the library.
- It's important to note that this history was not written down until 300 years later and by a Christian bishop who wrote a lot about Muslim "atrocities" without providing much documentation for them.

Great for Banned Books Week or introducing *Fahrenheit 451*

GRADES
8-12



INCLUDES GOOGLE™ SLIDES

CENSORSHIP STRAIGHT FROM THE NEWS

WHAT IS CENSORSHIP?

Censorship: the suppression or prohibition of any parts of books, films, news, etc. that are considered obscene, politically unacceptable, or a threat to security.

Censorship can also be applied to: art, music, stand-up comedy, theatre, clothing, and more.

Censorship also includes altering content to prevent others from accessing it (such as tearing out pages, changing or marking out living shorts on nude figures).



GRADES
8+

Great for Banned Books Week!

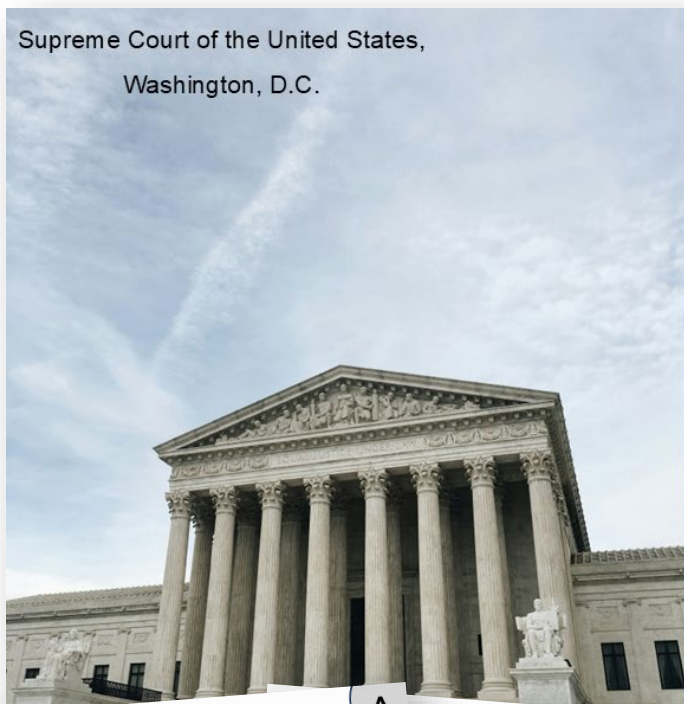


GRADES
8+

Bundle for Libraries
and Classrooms



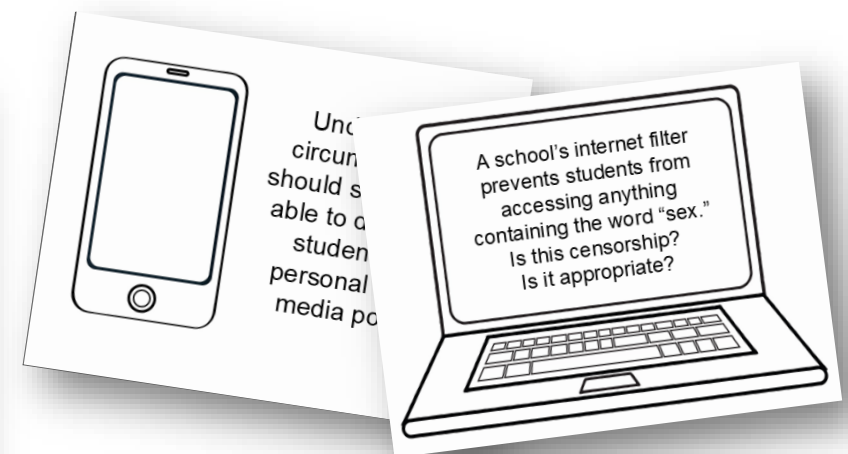
ONE WEEK CENSORSHIP UNIT



CENSORSHIP AND THE LAW

Laws and court cases about censorship are detailed and complex. They may contradict one another. They may be difficult to understand.

Court cases and school policies are widely discussed.



BOOK BANNING



- A **banned** book is no longer available to a certain group or geographical area
- Banning is the most extreme form of censorship because it ensures that no one accesses any part of the material.

IS CENSORSHIP EVER OKAY? (AT SCHOOL) A

Censorship isn't always clear or obvious. There are many opinions and shades of what constitutes censorship to different people. Below, you will find several situations. All the situations actually happened or are happening right now. The question is, are they all censorship? And if so, are there situations where censorship is reasonable or acceptable? Please note that this is an opinion activity. *There are no right or wrong answers!*

Situation	Is this censorship?	Is it reasonable or unreasonable?	Explain your answer.
A student is sent home from school for wearing a t-shirt to school that contains a political slogan.			
A principal says the school newspaper may not publish an article that quotes a student's opinion that the school's teachers are not good at teaching.			
A female student wears a t-shirt in her locker room. When the yearbook comes out, the student's portrait is listed as "not pictured."			
A principal says that students may no longer wear certain clothes because they are associated with gang activity.			
A 6th grade teacher is fired because she played a song containing profanity as part of an English lesson.			

IS CENSORSHIP EVER OKAY? (AT SCHOOL) B

There are many opinions and shades of what constitutes censorship to different people. Below, you will find several situations. All the situations actually happened or are happening right now. The question is, are they all censorship? And if so, are there situations where censorship is reasonable or acceptable? Please note that this is an opinion activity. *There are no right or wrong answers!*

Situation	Is this censorship?	Is it reasonable or unreasonable?	Explain your answer.
A student is sent home from school for wearing a t-shirt to school that contains a political slogan.			
A principal says the school newspaper may not publish an article that quotes a student's opinion that the school's teachers are not good at teaching.			
A female student wears a t-shirt in her locker room. When the yearbook comes out, the student's portrait is listed as "not pictured."			
A principal says that students may no longer wear certain clothes because they are associated with gang activity.			
A 6th grade teacher is fired because she played a song containing profanity as part of an English lesson.			

ASSIGNMENT

All the situations in the "Is Censorship Ever Okay?" activity actually occurred. Some are ongoing. Select a situation that interests you from the worksheet. Use the internet to find the real story and research it. Describe what really happened and make an argument on whether you agree or disagree with the outcome.

The basics	What was the outcome of this situation? Was it resolved, or is it still ongoing?
Who was involved?	
What happened?	
When?	
Where?	
Is this situation an example of censorship? Explain your answer.	Do agree or disagree with the outcome? Why or why not?

Includes two presentations, group discussion cards, and group discussion activity.
Designed to last 5-6 lessons of 40 minutes each.

DISCUSSION NORMS INCLUDED



DISCUSSION NORMS

To ensure polite discussion:

1. Be respectful of different opinions. You are not all going to agree, and that is fine.
2. Let others speak. Do not talk over another person.
3. Listen more than you speak.
4. Keep an open mind. Try to see the stories from different perspectives.
5. There is no right or wrong opinion. You can always agree to disagree.
6. If you feel a particular discussion is getting too heated, it is okay to pause your discussion. You might switch to a different real-life news story, or you might take a break to stand up and stretch or walk around the room.

Censorship can be a controversial topic, and opinions will differ among students. Project this slide during group activities to encourage respectful conversations.

EDITABLE IN THREE FORMATS

WHY ARE BOOKS CENSORED OR BANNED?



- Effort to rewrite history
- Go against church teachings (heresy)
- Criticize the government or monarch
- Encouraging “bad” behaviors
- Immorality
- Witchcraft / The Occult
- Obscenity / vulgarity / profanity
- Violence
- Sexuality
- Depicting alternate lifestyles (esp. LGBT+)

All documents come in PDF, PPT, and Google Slides formats. All text is editable in all three formats.