

Trouble **NATION** **101**

Session 4: What is Organizing?

Introduce Yourself

- **Where are you from?**
- **What is your group's name?**
- **What are you looking to learn today?**

Share in the comments!



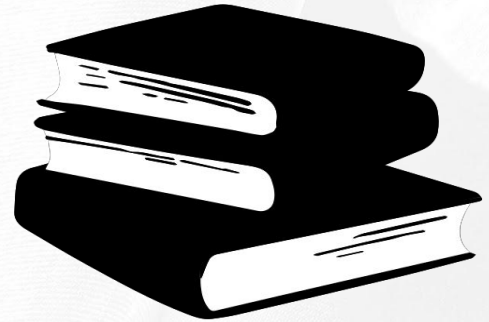
What We'll Cover Today

- 1. What is relational organizing?**
- 2. Mapping your network**
- 3. Building your story of self**
- 4. YOU are so important to this effort**
- 5. CTA Opportunity – Banned Bookmobile & Banned Book Bingo**



What is Relational Organizing?

It is the simple, proven concept that people talking to their friends and family is more effective than strangers talking to strangers.





RELATIONAL ORGANIZING

WHAT IT IS & WHY IT MATTERS

Electing leaders who **reflect voter values** and **fight** for the issues and policies that matter is crucial.



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Data shows that relational organizing is the most effective way to spread a message, to persuade someone, and to get people to show up to vote.

- 15x more impactful than knocking a stranger's door
- 22x more effective than robo text messages
- 200x more effective than a tv ad



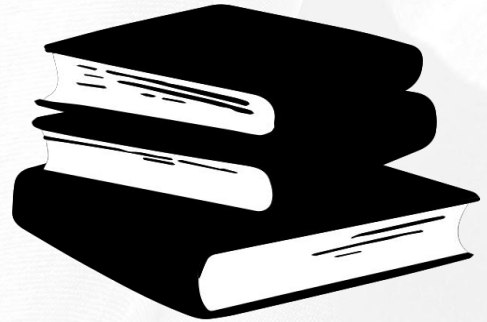
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Mapping Your Network

Mapping your network is the best way to understand your relationships and how you can do strategic outreach.



Mapping Your Network



Where to Look?

- **Evaluate your networks: friend group, Facebook contacts, book club, school/gym**
- **Post on social media**
- **Reach out to anyone who comments on or likes your posts**
- **Who do you regularly engage with?**



Teamwork Get It Done



**Inform and Influence
Friends**



Get Out The Vote



Voting Fairy Godmother

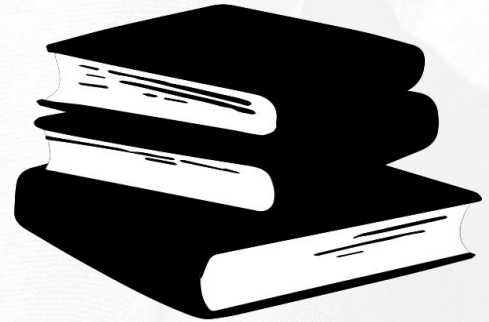
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What & Why?

Storytelling is about how you share lived experiences with others to help them relate to you – all about making connections.



What is a “Story of Self”?

Your story is how you communicate with others about why you are passionate about certain issues and why you are called to act.

We all have compelling stories.





Stepping

Up

Veronica

My name is Veronica
Stevens, I am 17 years old

KQED

Crafting Your Relational Story

Self

Challenge - Choice - Outcome

Us

Now

Putting It Together



Let's take a few minutes...



Work on your Story of Self

- **Write it out**
- **Practice**
- **Different versions for the moment**
- **Memorize**



Share Your Perspective

- **Why are you speaking today? Why do you care?**
- **Personal stories have the greatest impact**
 - **Data is helpful but emotions move people**
 - **How does this impact you, your child, your family or your friends?**
- **Stay Focused: It's about your town, not Washington D.C.**
 - **It's about your kids, not partisanship.**
 - **The personal is political; all politics are local**



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Build It - And They Will Come!

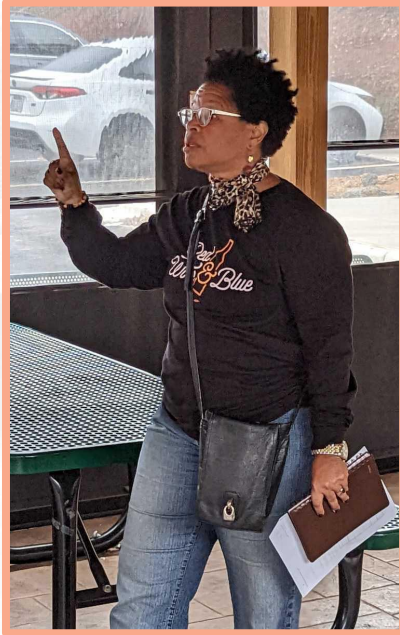


Why You NEED To Show Up and Take Action

- **The opposition is small but loud**
- **Important your community sees that people are standing up for common sense and opposing extremism**
- **Do not repeat disinformation - your lived experience and facts matter most**
- **Your goal is to influence not only the school board but also your community**



Use Your Troublemaker Powers!



- **Contact Campaigns: Emails, Phone Calls, Letters/Postcards**
- **Social Media Campaign**
- **Attend Meetings**
- **Line Up Speakers**
- **Host an event**



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Opportunities To Take Action

1. Banned Book Clubs

a. Adults

b. Little Banned Book Club

2. Banned Book Bingo

3. Banned Bookmobile

4. Support Little Libraries





Any book worth banning is a book worth reading.

- Isaac Asimov



You Are The Majority

EDUCATION ISSUES

- 87% do not support banning books that discuss race.
- 83% do not support banning books critical of U.S. history.
- 98% of voters support sex ed in high school, 89% support it in middle school.



Book Ban Talking Points

Our core values:

- Every kid should feel safe to learn and thrive at school.
- To prepare our kids for a 21st century global economy, we need them to learn real history—not fairy tales—and to respect people across our differences.

Call it out directly!

- I can't believe we have actual calls for book bans in 2022. They've even tried to ban books about Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rosa Parks!
- This isn't about parental rights – it's about using our kids' education to impose a political agenda.
- The books being targeted are almost entirely about LGBTQ+ and people of color. What message does that send to students in our schools who are part of these communities? What message does that send to students who are not a part of these communities?

Own individual freedom:

- You can decide what is right for your child, but you don't get to dictate what's right for other families. Live by your own ideals but you don't get to stop others from living their values.
- Most books that are being targeted are not assigned. They are simply on the school library shelf. If a parent doesn't want their child to read a book - fine - opt them out - but don't take that opportunity away from everyone else's kids.



Tips for Talking About Book Bans

Own patriotism: In America, we celebrate free speech, independent thinking, and equality – these are the ideals of our nation. Trying to limit or remove those freedoms is not patriotic. It's censorship.

Own your mom expertise: As moms, we know what happens when you ban something. It just makes it more appealing. When books are banned, sales go up. If parents really want to stop their kids from reading certain books - talk to them.

Flip the frame on who is playing politics: Our libraries offer a wide array of topics and ideas so there's something for everyone. They are not endorsing every book or idea in their collection. Book banners are imposing their political views on others – not the other way around.

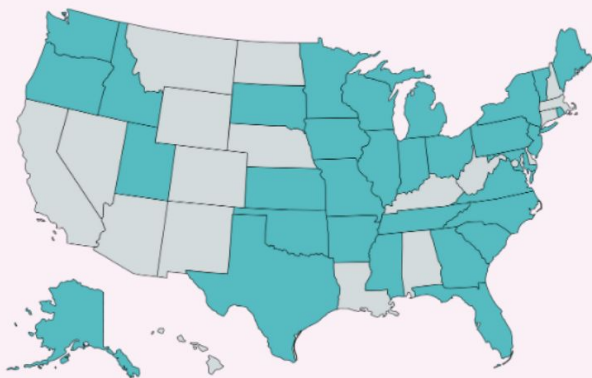
The link between legislation & books: Books that tell stories about LBGTQ+ individuals help save lives. Legislation similar that bans them threatens lives.



Think Outside the Box

- **Hold a Positive Event (School Supply Drive to Support Teachers) and Pass out Info on the Bans**
- **Sign Big Thank You Card for Teachers/Librarians**
- **Pass Out Banned Books at Meetings**
- **Stock Little Libraries w/ banned books**
- **Students have started banned book clubs**
- **Highlight books that are being banned on social media - share the subject/stories and awards they won**
- **Yard signs to support your side or students (You Belong)**
- **Wear t-shirts with banned authors/books/wording about bans**
- **Sidewalk chalk messages**
- **Change profile pictures to you holding banned books**
- **Read-In of Banned Books**





BANS HAVE OCCURRED IN
138 SCHOOL DISTRICTS
IN
32 STATES

THESE DISTRICTS REPRESENT

 **5,049 SCHOOLS** 

WITH A COMBINED ENROLLMENT OF
NEARLY

 **4 MILLION STUDENTS** 

ACCORDING TO THE AMERICAN LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION, IN 2022 A RECORD

 **2,571 UNIQUE TITLES** 

WERE TARGETED FOR CENSORSHIP,
A 38% INCREASE

OVER THE 1,858 UNIQUE TITLES
TARGETED FOR CENSORSHIP IN 2021.



Launched in June 2023 in target states

Expanding this fall!

Each contains 20 banned/challenged books + stickers + info sheets & instructions

Order a kit to take action in your community!



BANNED BOOK CLUB



Wednesday,
Nov. 15th, 2023
7:30 pm ET



**Little Banned
Book Club**

**The 1619 Project:
Born on the Water**
By Nikole Hannah-Jones
and Renée Watson

Wednesday
December 6th, 2023
7:30 PM ET



*Read &
Wine & Blue*

*Read &
Wine & Blue*

Banned Book Bingo

THE PERKS OF BEING A WALLFLOWER

by
Stephen Chbosky

Reason:
Depiction of sexual
abuse, LGBTQIA+
content, drug use,
profanity, claimed
to be sexually
explicit

UNSPEAKABLE: THE TULSA RACE MASSACRE

by
Carole Boston
Weatherford

Reason:
Race-related
stories may make
some students
uncomfortable

THE HANDMAID'S TALE

by
Margaret Atwood

Reason:
Profanity,
vulgarity, sexual
overtones

THE BLUEST EYE

by
Toni Morrison

Reason:
Depiction of
sexual abuse, DEI
content, claimed
to be sexually
explicit

Final Thoughts

1. **Remember: Present a calm face to counter the yelling and shouting!**
2. **Reach out and support teachers and librarians**
3. **Learn the book review process at your school**
4. **Watch other school districts and prepare**



Ready to take action?!

