

BOOK BAN TALKING POINTS

Focus on the Impact on the Students

- Kids are losing basic rights, like safety and access to knowledge about themselves, their bodies, their history, and the world.
- Teaching empathy is one way our schools are working to reduce bullying. Let's make sure kids get the information they need to understand the world, the people in it, and be successful in life.
- It can be uncomfortable to learn about dark aspects of our past, but kids must learn accurate history so they don't repeat it.

Studies Show that Some of the Most Concerning Impacts on Kids Are:

- Loss of knowledge of history
- Loss of access to a high quality, well-rounded education
- Loss of sense of safety and protection at school
- Loss of access to books
- Loss of freedom to learn about the world and all who are in it
- Loss of access to different perspectives and views
- Becoming narrow minded
- Facing more bullying in schools and mental health concerns

Our core values:

- Every kid should feel safe to learn and thrive at school.

Call it out directly!

- I can't believe we have actual calls for book bans in 2023. 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 it's not your right 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.

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.

Books vs. Legislation: Books that tell stories about LGBTQ individuals help save lives. Legislation similar that bans them threatens lives.

Additional Messaging to Counter the Parents' Rights Narratives and Frames:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wp_yCig0UqS_lsmukRCsGoU7vEfypvBj/view?usp=sharing

OUTSIDE THE BOX IDEAS

- **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**

Great Quote to Use:**Rudine Sims Bishop [author and educator]:**

Books are either mirrors, windows or sliding-glass doors, and that's important in the act of resistance. You need that mirror to see yourself, to know what you can be and know what you are. And then you need that window to see into someone else's life so you can understand what's happening around you in the world that you may not notice at first glance. And you need the sliding-glass door so that you can step into someone else's life and walk in with some empathy and use that empathy to make yourself heard.

Another Way to Get Involved - Join Your Library Board:

<https://bookriot.com/why-you-should-sit-on-your-library-board/>

Resources

[American Library Association](#)

- <https://yesitsabookban.com/books/>

[ALA: Office for Intellectual Freedom](#)

[National Coalition Against Censorship](#)

[FReadomFighters Resource Guide](#)

[PEN America:](#)

- Comprehensive report on school book bans

[Every Library](#)

Wake County School Board policies (use as a model for what school board can pass to prevent book bans: https://boardpolicyonline.com/bl/?b=wake_new#&&hs=194196

Helpful RWB Trainings

- How to Build a Local Group: <https://youtu.be/G0dLHZgdjic?si=DtWsH7HgGgQktAYm>
- Your How-To Guide to Public Record Requests:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d4JDLyYpkvg>
- Countering Parents' Rights Messaging and Defeating Extremism:
<https://youtu.be/WorCOMXBIT8?si=7IS1INbHEkyWzMGx>