

Conversation Starters about Book Banning

Big Picture Questions:

- How will banning books affect education?
- How can we ban books yet say we are a free society?
- Who decides which books are banned?
- How involved should adults be in selecting books for children and students?

Questions for Educators:

- Is there fear that learning about racism, LGBTQ, etc. will encourage a different way of thinking? Why?
- How does book banning affect the way you teach in the classroom?
- How does book banning affect libraries and librarians?
- Does your school or classroom library include a variety of books that represent a wide-range of diverse life experiences?
- How can educators answer parents' and families' questions about books?
- What should educators do if a child shows interest in a banned book?

Questions for Students:

- What do you think about books that have been banned--like books about racism, sexuality, and gender?
- In what ways does banning books make them more interesting to read?
- Who started book banning, and why is it happening now?
- If you take a book out but it is banned, should you get in trouble?
- Many banned books are on best-seller lists--but if they are banned, who is buying and reading them?
- Do you think there are books that should be "out of bounds" for students?
- How would you decide which books should be allowed and which books should be banned?
- Do you intend to read books about people with different life experiences, and why is that important?