

TEXAS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (TLA)

The Texas Library Association (TLA) has resources available at <https://txla.org/tools-resources/intellectual-freedom/tools-resources/>. Stop by for Intellectual Freedom Resources, Intellectual Freedom and Censorship Q&A, materials for Preparing for and Responding to Challenges to Library Resources, and more.



THE ALA OFFICE OF INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM (ALA OIF)

The ALA OIF has a Fight Censorship Landing Page with a wealth of resources and links: <https://www.ala.org/advocacy/fight-censorship>. Be sure to check out the Selection and Reconsideration Policy Toolkit.

MACMILLAN CHILDREN'S PUBLISHING GROUP (MCPG)

Publishers have extensive resources supporting banned books. Visit the MacKids School & Library Frequently Challenged Books Resource Center at <https://bit.ly/MCPGBannedBooks> for materials to support frequently challenged books. Follow [@MacKidsSL](https://twitter.com/MacKidsSL) on Twitter and subscribe to the newsletter for resources all year long.

NATIONAL COALITION AGAINST CENSORSHIP (NCAC)

Visit the NCAC Resources Page <https://ncac.org/resources> for resources for parents, teachers, librarians, authors, artists, activists and more.

BANNED BOOKS WEEK

While protecting the freedom to read is a year round effort, participating in Banned Books Week is a valuable opportunity to continue this conversation. Find more information about Banned Books Week and resources to support banned books at <https://bannedbooksweek.org/>.

HOW TO HOST AN EVENT

Want to host your own roundtable event for your community? Every event will be different, but the below steps will get you started.

1 - CONSIDER YOUR PARTNERS

Are there local community partners, state reading or library associations, schools, or public libraries that you can partner with? Make a list and set up a time to meet!

2 - DEFINE YOUR GOALS AND WRITE EVENT DESCRIPTION

Agree on your goals for the event and write a description to match!

3 - SET THE DATE AND DISCUSS PLATFORM

Select a target dates and times to share with panelists. Choose a platform for the event and decide whether this will be a virtual or in-person gathering.

4 - INVITE YOUR PANELISTS AND MODERATOR

Choose a mix of voices to speak at the program. Consider including a librarian, parent, student, legislator, and author and ensure as many perspectives and experiences are represented as possible. Identify a moderator who can confidently lead a discussion. This should be someone well versed in the topic.

6 - DISTRIBUTE INVITATIONS

Spread the word as widely as possible with the help of your event partners. Consider using newsletter, social media, and flyers where appropriate.

7 - DISCUSS EVENT SECURITY

Ensure safety measures are in place to protect panelists and audience members. Agree upon an anti-harassment policy to share at the event.

8 - HOST YOUR EVENT

After making sure panelists and moderator are prepped, host your roundtable event! Create a run-of-show to ensure that everyone is aware of what is expected of them.

9 - FOLLOW UP

This is an ongoing conversation. Follow-up with action items and resources for attendees.

SAMPLE MATERIALS



Read on for sample language and materials to support your own roundtable event

EVENT DESCRIPTION

Voices from every aspect of this ongoing and constantly evolving issue will weigh in, including a teacher, librarian, parent, legislator, author, and student, using the recent book bannings in [INSERT YOUR LOCATION] and the response from teachers, librarians, and the community at large as an example of a way forward in protecting the First Amendment nationwide.

LOGOS

Title your roundtable event to suit your needs! If you would like to use the Freedom to Read Roundtable logo used in these materials, it can be accessed online at <https://bit.ly/FreedomtoReadLogo>

INVITATION TO PANELISTS

I am working with [INSERT PARTNERS] to host a Freedom to Read Roundtable event and we'd love to have you join us as a voice on the panel. We are aiming for [INSERT TARGET DATE(S)] but have some flexibility to work with your schedule.

Our goal for this conversation is to facilitate discussion in our community surrounding book censorship and to create actionable items to protect the freedom to read. We feel it's important to have representatives from every part of our community and feel yours would be a valuable voice on the program.

AUTHORS

Looking for an author to join your roundtable? If you have someone specific in mind, visit their website to see who they have listed as a contact person for speaking engagements. Open to suggestions? Email Mary Van Akin at mary.vanakin@macmillan.com.

FREQUENTLY CHALLENGED BOOKS



Looking for ways to support frequently challenged books?
 Visit the MacKids School & Library Resource Center for
 discussion guides, read alouds, author interviews, and more.

<https://bit.ly/MCPGBannedBooks>

