

Reading Center

Take a look at one to two of the books (or book pamphlets) at the table. Read the title, book summary, any other relevant information that could help you get a clue as to what the story may be about.

Then, pick one book to focus on in particular.

Questions:

- a. (If the information is available) Why was it challenged?
- b. Based on what you know about the book, do you think it should be available in a school or classroom library for students in your grade? Why or why not?
- c. Do you think some students may like the book or find it useful? Why or why not?

Video Center

Go to: <https://bit.ly/BraveStudents>

Watch the video to see how students in Pennsylvania fought against their district's book ban and won.

Questions:

1. What did the students do to protest the book bans?
2. Why do you think these students were successful in getting these books back on the shelf?
3. At the end of the video, one of the students, Olivia, says, "It doesn't matter if you're young, your voice has impact." Do you agree or disagree? Why?

Paired Text Center

Read the following two articles. Pay close attention to the main idea of each article and think about what these articles might have in common.

Article 1:

["Major Improvement" in Number of Books Written by Authors of Color](#)

Article 2:

[How Banning Books Marginalizes Children](#)

Questions:

1. What is the main idea of each article?
2. What might these two articles tell us about why there is an increase in book bans?

Database Center

Go to: <https://ncac.org/youth-censorship-database>

This map displays student censorship incidents including book challenges in schools and libraries, as well as censorship of student art, journalism, and other types of student expression in schools.

Directions: Using the filters located above the map, click on **type** and select **book challenge**.

Then, find your **state** and click **search**. How many instances of censorship do you see? Below the map, a list of book challenges in your state will come up. Click around and answer the following **questions**:

1. How many book challenges are listed in your state? Does this amount surprise you? Why or why not?
2. What are some of the reasons these books were challenged in your state?
3. Looking at the map as a whole, which states seem to have the most book challenges? Why might that be?

Podcast Center

Go to: <https://bit.ly/BannedBooksPodcast>

Next, start the podcast at **1:30** and click play. Listen until **10:35**.

Questions:

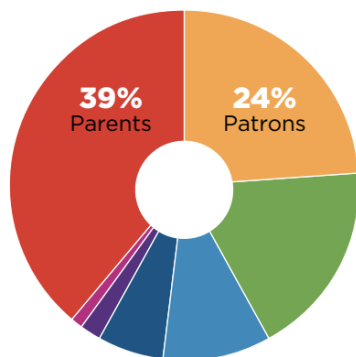
1. The podcast starts by mentioning book burnings in the past. What were some of the reasons books were burned in the past?
2. What is the difference between a book challenge and a book ban?
3. What percentage of book bans go unnoticed by the media?
4. What do you think the speaker means at the end of the podcast when she says, “As long as free speech remains, so will challenges to it”?

Statistics Center

Browse through the statistical information and answer the following questions in your notebook:

1. Write down the statistic you found most surprising? Why did this surprise you?
2. Which statistic was least surprising? Why?
3. Who is most likely to initiate a book ban?
4. Who (students, teachers, school administrators, librarians, parents, ect.) might find this information interesting/insightful? Why?

WHO INITIATES CHALLENGES?



- 18%** Board/administration
- 10%** Political/religious groups
- 6%** Librarians/teachers
- 2%** Elected officials
- 1%** Students

Statistics based on 715 responses

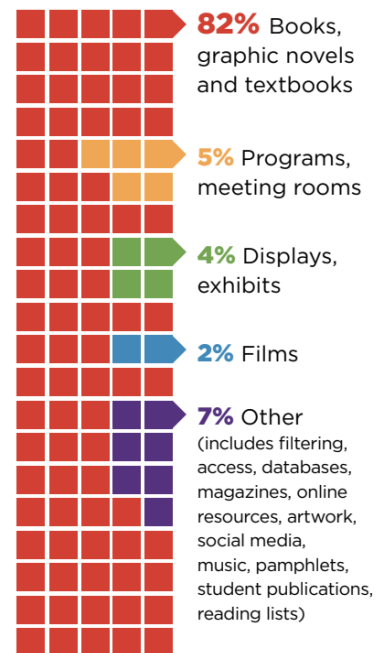
WHERE DO CHALLENGES TAKE PLACE?



Statistics based on 729 responses

BOOKS AND BEYOND

The ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom tracked **729 challenges** in 2021. Here's the breakdown:



REASONS FOR CHALLENGES



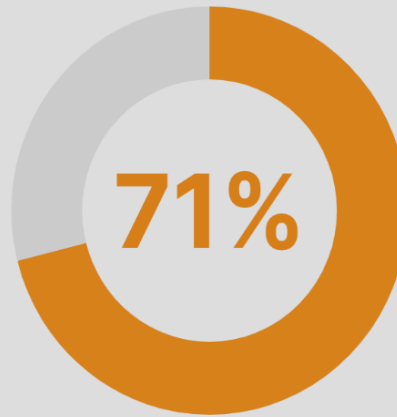
Each word and phrase in this graphic is cited from 2021 censorship reports

CENSORSHIP
STATISTICS
COMPILED BY:

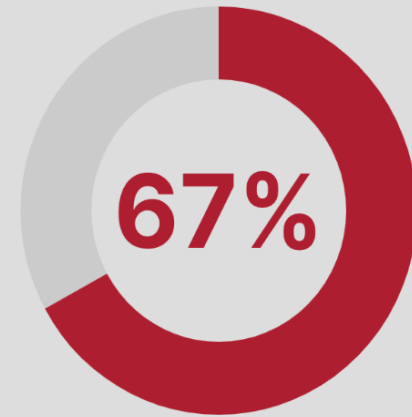


OFFICE FOR
Intellectual Freedom
American Library Association

We are not alone. On both sides of the aisle, large majorities of voters and parents oppose book bans.



of voters oppose efforts to remove books from public libraries.



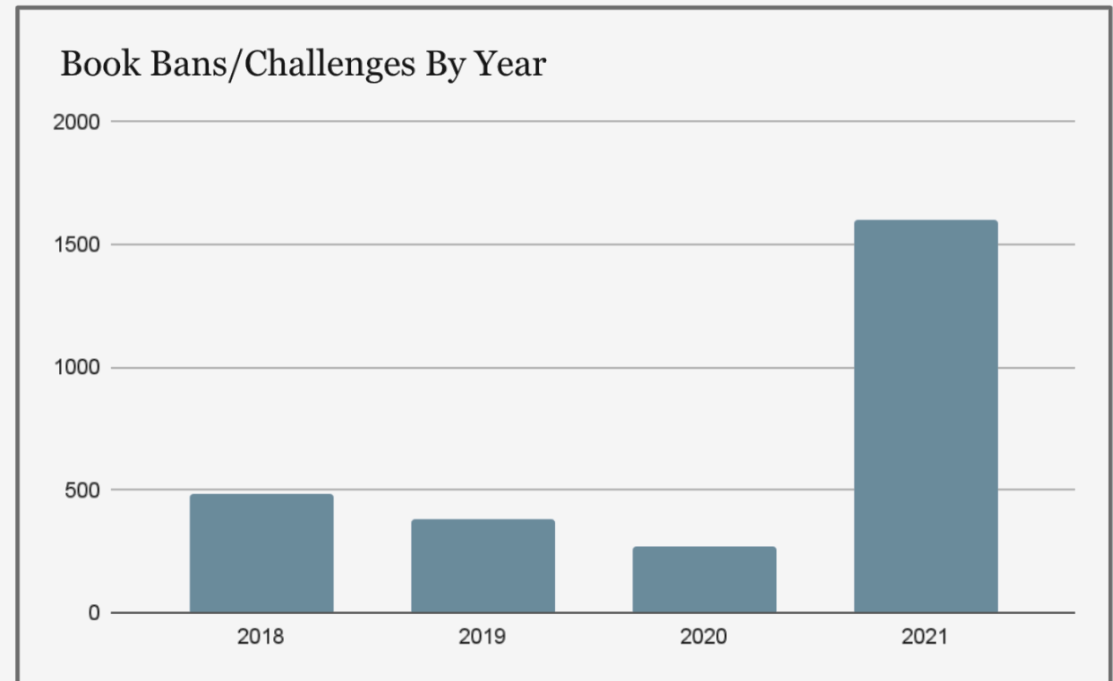
of voters oppose efforts to remove books from school libraries.

Full poll results and key findings available via the [American Library Association](#).

Did you know?

There were 1,597 book bans in 2021 and 2022 is on track to beat this record.

33% percent of the banned books, included LGBTQ themes, protagonists, or strong secondary characters.



Source: ALA