

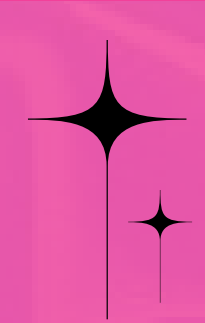
book banning and why it's wrong

By: Sophia Grant

Have you ever heard of a book being banned and wondered why it happened? Or, have you ever read a banned book that didn't deserve to be banned? Well, the truth is, book banning has a history spanning hundreds of years. The first book ever banned in the United States was "New English Canaan" by Thomas Morton in 1637. Thomas Morton traveled to Massachusetts with a group of Puritans in 1624. He later left the Puritans because he despised abiding by their strict rules and customs. After he wrote "New English Canaan", it was banned by the Puritan government as it was considered a harsh critique of their power structures and customs.

Since then, thousands of books have been pulled from the shelves of many libraries, classrooms, and even stores. In 2022 alone, during the months of July to December, 1477 books have been banned, according to PEN America's Index of School Book Bans List. A large percentage of books banned during that time were banned during December of 2022.





Although, based on a poll in 2022, 70% of parents oppose book banning, unfortunately, it continues to spread to many school districts across the country. Most books banned contain topics and themes such as: activism, grief, race, people of color, and LGBTQ+ content. In fact, 41% of banned books were banned because of their LGBTQ+ themes and content.

Books are one of the largest vessels for self expression and getting your thoughts out into the world. So why should we limit the knowledge and imagination of others? What is so wrong about learning about people's real life experiences and opinions? Through book banning, we have limited the creativity of authors and deprived readers of unique and diverse experiences. If book banning continues, we will be left with a world with limited education, imagination, and bottled up feelings that hold stories that could change someone's life.