**Book Banning: Sample Topics for Annotated Bibliography**

Sexual Content

* Should literature with sexual content be allowed in middle- and high-school classrooms? If so, what would be good examples of such literature?
* How have bans impacted sex ed? Is the impact something to be concerned about?
* Is high school the right age level to teach students about sexual assault? If so, what literary works might be useful to help students understand what sexual assault is and what victims go through?

LGBTQ Books

* Why have so many LGBTQ books been removed from school libraries? Is there ever reasonable cause for removing books about LGBTQ experiences from the shelves?
* How is the banning of books by LGBTQ authors affecting LGBTQ youth? What about those who are not part of the LGBTQ community?
* People who want LGBTQ books removed from school libraries often argue that such books “sexualize” children. Are they correct? If so, why? If not, why not?

Books about Race

* Why have so many books about race been banned? Are there ever valid reasons for banning such books?
* Is it wrong to make white people feel guilty about racism—past and present?
* Are people on the political left justified when banning books that contain racist language (think Mark Twain, for ex.)? Are some forms of censorship more justified than others?

Violence

* Should literature containing descriptions of violent acts be allowed in middle- and high-school classrooms? If so, what would be good examples of such literature?
* At what age is it appropriate to teach students about bullying?
* At what age is it appropriate to teach students about self-harm, including suicide?

Political Ideologies

* Which types of political narratives have most commonly been suppressed through book banning? If a political narrative espouses an extremist viewpoint (think Hitler’s *Mein Kampf*), is it ever OK to study it in the classroom?