

# Educational Censorship: Book Bans and Their Impact on Student Identity & Expression

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# Summary of *Educational Censorship*

**Purpose:** Examine how book bans affect student identity, expression, and mental health, especially for LGBTQIA+ and BIPOC students.

**Method:** Review of school library data, historical policy, and advocacy reports (PEN America, ALA).

## Key Findings:

- Book bans disproportionately target LGBTQIA+ and BIPOC authors (≈47% of banned books).
- Bans limit students' exposure to diverse perspectives, harming intellectual and emotional development.
- Volume of bans has surged recently, particularly in states like Florida, Texas, and Wisconsin.
- Restrictions often occur without public comment, reducing transparency and engagement.

## Conclusions:

- Censorship harms student identity and freedom of expression.
- Inclusive, nonpartisan policies needed.

# My Research

## How This Source Relates to My Research:

- Provides evidence that book bans limit access to diverse perspectives, directly linking to survey questions about representation of race, LGBTQ+, religion, and immigrant experiences.
- Highlights the disproportionate impact on marginalized groups, which aligns with demographic questions in my survey (race, gender identity, sexual orientation).
- Frames the broader social and educational context in which students experience restricted literary content.

## How It Informs My Research Decisions:

- Guides analysis of survey responses on access to books and feeling represented.
- Supports including questions on restrictions in schools and perceived inclusivity of materials.
- Emphasizes examining both student identity outcomes and the broader policy/cultural environment.

# References

Nguyen, R., Jaikumar, A., Adams, A., Tandon, N., Simons, T., Kim, E., Elango, K., Borkar, R., Signorini, S. T. F., Jain, A., & Fowler, S. (2024, July 5). *Educational censorship: Book bans and their impact on student identity & expression: Yip Institute Social Policy*. Institute for Youth in Policy.

<https://yipinstitute.org/policy/educational-censorship-impact-on-student-identity-expression>