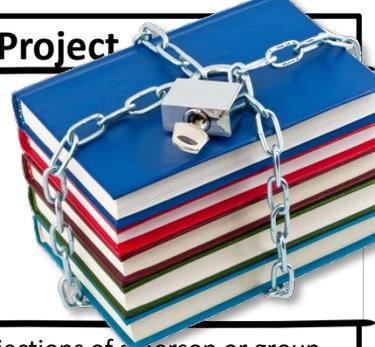


Name: _____

Short Research Project

*"You don't have to burn books
to destroy a culture. Just get
people to stop reading them."
– Fahrenheit 451*



BANNED books

Background: A challenge is an attempt to remove or restrict materials based upon the objections of a person or group. A banning is the removal of those materials. Challenges do not simply involve a person expressing a point of view; rather, they are an attempt to remove material from the curriculum or library, thereby restricting the access of others in libraries, schools, etc. Due to the commitment of librarians, teachers, parents, students, and other concerned citizens, most challenges are unsuccessful and most materials are retained in the school curriculum or library collection. Books usually are challenged with the best intentions – to protect others, frequently children, from difficult ideas and information. Parents – and only parents – have the right and the responsibility to restrict the access of their children – and only their children – to library resources. Censorship, whether for protection or for any other reason, violates the First Amendment.

For example: In 1992 at the Venando Middle School in Irvine, CA, students received copies of *Fahrenheit 451* with scores of words blacked out. In late 1998, the book was removed from the required reading list of the West Marion High School in Foxworth, Mississippi. A parent complained of the use of words "God d..." in the book. Subsequently, the superintendent instructed the teacher to remove the book from the required reading list. It was also banned in other schools for its "questionable themes." It was also challenged in 2006 at the Conroe, Texas, Independent School District because of the following: "discussion of being drunk, smoking cigarettes, violence, dirty talk, references to the Bible, and using God's name in vain." The novel went against the complainant's religious beliefs. After receiving complaints from parents and being contacted by reporters. It has even been challenged as recently as 2007. When asked about the ban on his book, Bradbury said, "You don't have to burn books to destroy a culture. Just get people to stop reading them."

Task: Research the banned book you have been assigned. What is the basic plot of the novel? Who is the author? Who are the characters? How did it end up on the challenged or banned list? Who challenged it and why? You will include internal citations on your slides and a work(s) cited slide at the end. Then you will develop a Power Point presentation to show your interpretations.

Power Point Presentation Requirements: Minimum of 6 slides

1. Title slide – introduces the book and author and your name
2. Describe the book, basic plot, characters, main conflict, etc.
3. History of the challenge – who first challenged it, what came of that challenge? how was it refuted? Be sure to look thoroughly for as many instances as you can find.
4. Why was it challenged/banned? What was its questionable content?
5. Do you agree or disagree with the censoring of this particular book?
6. MLA Work(s) Cited slide – must be double spaced and hanging indent

Slides must have a unique, cohesive color scheme; Must have at least two pictures total; Must be grammatically correct

Presentation: You will present your multimedia show in class to your peers. You need to be able to explain your ideas fully and clearly. Remember, when giving a presentation, you need to make eye contact, speak clearly, and conduct yourself as if you have rehearsed it. Professional dress is required.

Grading: You will be receiving three grades for this project – presentation grade, ppt completion grade, and MLA grade.

Research Tips: When cruising the Internet for information for your topic consider typing phrases such as: "banned book (insert topic)" or "challenged content of (insert topic)" or "censorship of (insert topic)." You want to be specific enough to direct your research to the person and his viewpoints that you have been assigned. Secondly, be sure to use credible websites. Look for sites that have their sources listed, sponsors, or are posted through an educational, government, or well-known newspaper, magazine or journal website.