

Sample Book Challenge Statements



At [\[NAME\]](#) Public Library, we value the intellectual freedoms protected under the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and uphold policies that protect the right to read.

The First Amendment's provision of free speech includes the right to challenge books and materials at the library. Challenging books at the library is not new, and the [\[NAME\]](#) Public Library respects the right to do so according to our Reconsideration Policy [\[link to policy\]](#). The library does not exclude materials based on origin, background, or views. The removal of such books is censorship that denies free access to information and restricts intellectual freedom.

Libraries are for everyone. Adopted in 1939 by the American Library Association (ALA), the [Library Bill of Rights](#) emphasizes equal and equitable access for all individuals, including minors, to a diverse collection by and about a diversity of people and cultures. Our library collections strive to be inclusive of and relevant to all members of our community.

The [\[NAME OF LIBRARY\]](#) joins our colleagues around the Commonwealth and nation in affirming the American Library Association's (ALA) [Freedom to Read Statement](#) and [Library Bill of Rights](#).

The [\[NAME OF LIBRARY\]](#) recognizes an individual's right to question library materials they find offensive. Living in a free society, that's a right we all enjoy under the First Amendment. We also enjoy freedom from censorship. Providing access to information and viewpoints to those seeking them without judgement is an important part of our library's mission.

Our library serves everyone which is not a small undertaking. Meeting the informational needs of every member of our community requires our professional librarians working with the community and our library collection development policy [\[link to policy\]](#) to guide us. In this way we can all, regardless of our beliefs or viewpoints, freely read and learn.

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An adult may choose not to read a certain book or parents may not want their child to read specific titles, but making it impossible for everyone else to read them is a different intent. No one has the right to impose beliefs or viewpoints upon other members of a democratic society. Individuals may use the [\[NAME OF LIBRARY'S\]](#) reconsideration policy [\[link to policy\]](#) to question library materials. The right to challenge books and materials is protected by the First Amendment, as well the right to live in a society free of censorship. The freedom of ideas, the pathways to learning, and the opening of minds that libraries facilitate should be welcomed, not feared. They help us better understand ourselves and each other and build stronger communities.

[\[NAME\]](#) Public Library recognizes the freedom to read and the right to materials that promote open inquiry, critical thinking, diversity in thought and expression and respect for others. [\[NAME\]](#) Public Library also respects the right to challenge books and materials according to our Reconsideration Policy [\[link to policy\]](#). The right to challenge books and materials is protected by the First Amendment, as well the right to live in a society free of censorship. Because [\[NAME OF LIBRARY\]](#) serves everyone, differing views and a diversity of opinions are to be expected. There are books that some may find meaningful, but others may not. Living in a free society means we get to choose what we want to read unimpeded by others' beliefs or viewpoints. Our library collections strive to be inclusive of and relevant to all members of the community.

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