Banned Books
and a Student’s Freedom to Read
As a future teacher, you may encounter opposition to books and materials that you prepare for your curriculum and lessons. To competently respond to challenges from parents and your administration, prepare yourself with a few simple facts.
Know the Definition of Censorship:

To Censor is

- to examine in order to suppress or delete anything considered objectionable <censor the news>; also: to suppress or delete as objectionable <censor out indecent passages>

(“Censor.” Merriam-Webster’s Online)
OBSCENITY DEFINED

**OBSCENITY**

1: the quality or state of being obscene
2: something (as an utterance or act) that is obscene

An *obscenity* is any statement or act which strongly offends the prevalent morality of the time, is a profanity, or is otherwise taboo, indecent, abhorrent, or disgusting, or is especially inauspicious.

("Obscenity." Wikipedia)
Know Why Books Are Banned

- the material was considered to be "sexually explicit"
- the material contained "offensive language"
- the materials was "unsuited to any age group"
• How does this apply to you?
• How would you respond?
The [interested future teacher] knows the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, understands how the application of that amendment has changed over time, and understands the role of the amendment in providing a core justification for free access to library resources.

(Intellectual Freedom Round Table)
Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.
Therefore, the interested future teacher knows about relevant court cases and understands key legal concepts that apply to library [and curriculum development] policy.
Works Cited


Works Consulted