



What Is Intellectual Freedom?

The American Library Association defines intellectual freedom as “the rights of library users to read, seek information, and speak freely as guaranteed by the First Amendment.” These resources explore how intellectual freedom exists in our daily lives and how aspects of these freedoms are sometimes challenged in libraries.

Conversation Questions

1. In what ways does intellectual freedom exist outside of the library?
2. How is intellectual freedom challenged in our current society?

Key Definitions *(from Merriam Webster)*

- *Censorship* – the institution, system, or practice of censoring
- *Access* – freedom or ability to obtain or make use of something

Read

***Charting a Course of Intellectual Freedom* by Dr. Emily Chamlee-Wright from Medium**

<https://goo.gl/3zR6fC>

President and CEO of the Institute for Humane Studies, Chamlee-Wright reflects on what it means to cultivate knowledge as her daughter is about to embark on her first year of college.

***Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury**

<https://goo.gl/4QB3eo>

Ray Bradbury's dystopian opus on censorship, in which firefighters are tasked with burning books deemed a threat to society.





Listen

If Could Happen to You: Banned Books from American Libraries Dewey Decibel Podcast

<https://goo.gl/5AkYS2>

Podcast host Phil Morehart discusses the controversy of banning books with guests Marjane Satrapi, author of the graphic novel *Persepolis*; Sara Stevenson, an Austin, Texas librarian who handles book challenges at her school; and James LaRue, the director of the American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom.

Watch

Top 10 Most Challenged Books of 2017 from Banned Books Week

<https://goo.gl/vcA5ga>

This short video from Banned Books Week recounts the top 10 most challenged books from the annual list compiled by the American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom.

Explore

ALA Intellectual Freedom: Issues and Resources

<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom>

This resource page from the American Library Association is dedicated to intellectual freedom. Access toolkits, blog posts, information about current trends in publishing and libraries, and much more.

