

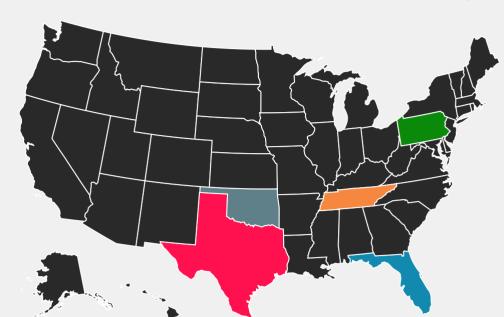
Book Bans & Educational Gag Orders

Understanding the Issues



2,532 Books Banned in the U.S.

From June 2021 to June 2022, over 2,500 books were banned from student access in school libraries and/or classrooms (Pen America, 2022)



Top 5 States

Here are the 5 states with the most books banned:

Texas 801 Florida 566 Pennsylvania 458 Tennessee 349 Oklahoma 43

While many books are banned pending investigation, many others are banned outright.

Top 5 Banned Books in the U.S.

The majority of the books on the banned list deal with gender or racial diversity and inclusion



Memoir (LGBTQIA+)

- An autobiographical
- story illustrated in the style of a comic book. Maia Kobabe to describe
- and asexual. The story is written for advocates, friends and

to family members what

it is like to be nonbinary

all peopled everwhere.



(Race, LGBTQIA+)

- Personal essays by a journalist and LGBTQIA+ activist.
- · explores childhood, adolescence, and college years as a Black queer boy. Essays include being
- bullied, gender identity, toxic masculinity, pride in racial identity and more.



Out of Darkness

(Race, Relationships)

- Issues of interracial relationships in 1937 Texas are explored. Topics also include
- segregation, love, family, and destructive forces in people's lives. The explores kindness

and love along with racial

and sexual violence.



(Race, Implicit Bias)

- A look at how internalized white beauty and implicit messages that whiteness is superior to other races.
- The book discusses areas such as films, toys (white baby dolls). • The author describes

wishing for blue eyes to

be considered beautiful.

- Lawn Boy
 - (Race)
- Written from the perspective of a young Mexican American man.
- humorous but biting look at race stereotypes as the main character realizes he has no specific talents beyond using lawn mowers and hedge clippers.

This book takes a

Gag Order Bills January-September 2021

government to "censor and restrict viewpoints, intellectual frameworks, and historical truths or narratives they dislike." (Pen America 2022)

Although most bills have failed, they represent an overt attempt by some legislators to leverage

Gag Order Bills - In Numbers

Introduced in 24 states

Apply to teaching in public schools

Apply to teaching in public

colleges/universities

Prohibit schools from using materials from The New York Times' 1619 Project, an historical examination of the modern

impact of slavery in the United States

Target critical race theory, a term coined by conservatives to describe any teaching on race or diversity

Prohibit discussions and affirmations of

a belief in a "divisive concept"

Prohibits materials that promote or normalize or even address LGBTQIA+ issues or lifestyles

Mandate "balanced" teaching of "controversial" political or social topics, appearing to promote fairness while inviting partisan politics into public educational

institutions

To learn more or get involved

Vist PEN America at www.pen.org

GDIT 712 - Fall 2022 Dr. Joseph Kush, Professor

Scott Copley

Pen America. (2022). Pen America 100. www.pen.org