

BANNED/CHALLENGED BOOKS RESEARCH

ASSIGNMENT

- Choose two (2) books that have been challenged in the United States or banned somewhere in the world. You **MUST** have your book choices approved by Mrs. Sweeney.
- Access several resources to gain a broad base of information about the book. Take notes from the sources, listing the bibliography information to credit the sources. Be sure to focus your notes on the reasons the resources give for listing the book. Include facts, quotes, groups, etc. for your presentation.
- Research why the book was challenged as well as research censorship and right to read issues.
- Read sources which describe support for the literary merit of the book.
- Evaluate the arguments for and against the work; this will require research. Examine book reviews and scholarly journals, as well as informal sources such as readers' reviews.
- Formulate an informed opinion as to whether the work should be banned or whether it has value for readers. We want to hear your opinion. Also, present the opposing arguments.

VISUAL REPRESENTATION

- Create a visual representation that includes ALL of the following elements:
 - The title of the book
 - The author of the book
 - A short biography of the author
 - A short summary of the book's plot (can be obtained through internet search)
 - Information about why the book was banned or challenged (and where and when).
 - The reasons opponents offer for challenging or banning the book. Be specific. Use quotes from your note taking. Be sure to cite your sources.
 - Blurbs from reviewers.
 - Your position on whether the book should be banned or not. State your reasons clearly.
 - An excerpt from the book like a short extract or quote from the book (maybe the first few lines, if they are compelling?)
 - Some kind of indication that this poster is about a banned or challenged book
 - A graphic/image that represents something important from the book and draws the audience in. This **MIGHT** be the book cover, but just as well might be another strong image that is related to the book.
 - CITATIONS for all components including graphics. Use modified MLA style in your works cited page (on the back or at the back of your presentation board or creative piece). On the front of the poster, you may use small, unobtrusive numbers to refer to the items. Your works cited page will not be arranged alphabetically (which is standard) but will be arranged numerically by item.
- Visual representation can be a tri-fold project board, 3-prong portfolio book, or something creative that can be displayed. Posters that must be hung and PowerPoint presentations are not acceptable for this assignment. If you have questions please see Mrs. Sweeney.

PRESENTATION

- Present your findings to the class by talking through your visual and explaining what you learned about your books.
- Consider the following questions: Have you read it? Do you want to now or not? Why? Can you share a short excerpt or quote, or maybe an interesting fact you learned? You are evaluating the work's merits and you are examining the work in terms of appropriateness for young readers. What age group would enjoy this work? Why? What is the reading level? How do you know this? What objections (if any) do you have to the book? Is there anything that others would find objectionable? Explain.

NOTE: You are not required to read the books you choose.

PROJECTS ARE DUE SEPTEMBER 23, 2016 by 3PM.

Presentations will take place during Banned Book Week. You will sign-up for days and times. It is your responsibility to be in class on your presentation date.