



For participants

## BOOK BAN DEFINITIONS

1. We define a book ban as any action taken against a book based on its content that leads to a previously accessible book being completely removed from availability for students or where access to a book is restricted or diminished.
2. There is a difference between book banning and book curation. Book banning means you are unable to get the book anywhere because it is unavailable. Curation is the act of ensuring every book on the shelf in a library is appropriate.
3. A 'book ban' is the removal of a title from a library because someone considers it harmful or dangerous.
4. When a book is banned, that means it's not available anywhere and not legal to sell.
5. There is no such thing as a book ban because you can get anything you want thanks to the internet and to websites like Amazon.
6. A book is "challenged" when a person or group objects to the materials and attempts to remove or restrict their accessibility. A book is "banned" when this removal is successful.
7. A book ban is when a government decides to outlaw a book or when a big corporation like Target or Amazon decide to deplatform a title. It is not choosing one book over another book in a library.

# GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Which definition of “book ban” do you think is most accurate or appropriate? Which definition do you agree with the least?
2. Are there any definitions that you don’t like? What makes you disagree with them?
3. Why do you think the definition of a “book ban” is so inconsistent?
4. Do you believe there should be an authority on defining “book bans?” Why/why not?
5. Is there a difference between censorship and book banning?
6. What was it like to create a single definition of a concept when working with other people? What was easiest? What was hardest?



## Facilitator Page

# BOOK BAN DEFINITIONS WITH ATTRIBUTION

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**– PEN America**
2. There is a difference between book banning and book curation. Book banning means you are unable to get the book anywhere because it is unavailable. Curation is the act of ensuring every book on the shelf in a library is appropriate.  
**– Modified response from a parental rights activist**
3. A ‘book ban’ is the removal of a title from a library because someone considers it harmful or dangerous.  
**– American Library Association**
4. When a book is banned, that means it’s not available anywhere and not legal to sell.  
**– Modified response from a member of the Cato Institute**
5. There is no such thing as a book ban because you can get anything you want thanks to the internet and to websites like Amazon.  
**– Modified response from a Moms for Liberty Member**
6. A book is “challenged” when a person or group objects to the materials and attempts to remove or restrict their accessibility. A book is “banned” when this removal is successful.  
**– American Civil Liberties Union**
7. A book ban is when a government decides to outlaw a book or when a big corporation like Target or Amazon decide to deplatform a title. It is not choosing one book over another book in a library.  
**– Modified from Daniel Buck at the National Review**