

Activity: Banned Books & Digital Access – A Web 2.0 Exploration

Objective:

Students will explore the issue of **banned books** and how technology impacts access to information. They will use a **Web 2.0 tool of their choice** to create an engaging, multimedia response that reflects their thoughts on the role of **educational leaders in ensuring access to diverse information**.

Step 1: Choose a Banned Book

You will select a **banned or challenged book** from an official list, such as:

- [American Library Association's Banned & Challenged Books List](#)
- [PEN America's Index of School Book Bans](#)

You will research:

- ✓ **Why was the book challenged or banned?**
- ✓ **Who made the challenge, and what reasons were cited?**
- ✓ **What was the outcome?** (Was it removed, restricted, or reinstated?)

Please note: you are not limited to these two lists. There are NUMEROUS banned books for a variety of reasons. You'll just need to cite where you found that your particular chosen book (or series) was banned.

Step 2: Choose a Web 2.0 Tool

Students will **choose a Web 2.0 tool** to create a digital response to their research. Some suggested tools:

- **Canva/Piktochart** (Infographic, presentation, visual post, video...)
- **Visme/Google Slides/Prezi** (Interactive presentation)
- **Powtoon/Adobe Spark** (Short video or digital story)
- **Any other Web 2.0 tool you would like – no limit here!**

Step 3: Create & Submit

Students will **use their Web 2.0 tool** to create a response that addresses:

1. **Summary of the Book & Challenge:** A short description of the book, why it was banned, and who challenged it.
2. **The Role of Technology:** How does digital access (e-books, online libraries, AI, etc.) change the censorship conversation?
3. **School Leadership & Censorship:** What role should **school leaders** play in addressing book bans and access issues?

Rubric: Banned Books & Web 2.0 Activity**Total Points: 150**

Criteria	Needs Improvement (0-17 pts)	Developing (18-23 pts)	Proficient (24-29 pts)	Exemplary (30 pts)
Research & Analysis (40 pts)	Minimal research, unclear or missing information, or lacks a clear explanation of the book and its significance.	Basic research provided, but lacks depth, key details, or supporting evidence. Some parts may be unclear or incomplete.	Covers most aspects of the book, its challenge, and its impact with minor gaps in analysis. Research is mostly clear and accurate.	Thoroughly explains the book's content, the reason for the challenge, and its broader impact on education and society. Well-researched with strong supporting evidence.
Web 2.0 Tool Use (40 pts)	Minimal or incorrect use of a Web 2.0 tool, lacking clarity or effectiveness in communication.	Basic use of a Web 2.0 tool, but lacks engagement, creativity, or strong organization.	Uses a Web 2.0 tool appropriately, but could be more engaging or better utilized for communication.	Effectively and creatively uses a Web 2.0 tool to enhance the presentation. The tool enhances engagement and communicates the message effectively.
Leadership & Access Discussion (30 pts)	Minimal discussion of leadership or book access; lacks relevance to the topic.	Briefly mentions leadership and book access but lacks depth and connections.	Addresses leadership and book access, but could provide stronger connections or examples.	Thoughtful and well-supported response on the role of technology in ensuring access (or not) to information and the responsibility of school leaders.
Creativity & Visual Appeal (40 pts)	Poorly structured, lacks visual appeal, or is difficult to follow.	Basic design and layout; lacks strong organization or engagement.	Good design and organization, but could be slightly more engaging or visually refined.	Highly engaging, visually appealing, and well-organized. Strong use of design elements to enhance understanding.