The 3 Rs of Intellectual Freedom

Rights

Intellectual freedom is about the RIGHTS of children and teens to have access to a wide range of reading materials and information in schools and public libraries. Parents/guardians also have the right to guide their own children’s use of the library and its resources.

Responsibilities

Intellectual Freedom is about the RESPONSIBILITIES of librarians and teachers to choose materials for their libraries and classrooms using professional judgment and following criteria outlined in board-approved policies and procedures. Parents/guardians also have a responsibility to play an active role in guiding their own child’s reading.

Rewards

Intellectual Freedom is about the REWARDS of engagement and achievement that result from offering children and teens a wide range of materials that meet their many individual needs and interests, and provide opportunities to develop analysis and critical thinking skills.

Start Learning More!

Students’ Right to Read from the National Council of Teachers of English
http://www.ncte.org/positions/statements/righttoreadguideline

About Banned and Challenged Books (American Library Association—ALA)
http://www.ala.org/ala/merlin49

Kids: Know Your Rights! (ALA Association for Library Service to Children)
http://www.ala.org/alsc/doc20

Thinking about Intellectual Freedom: Professional Statements, Policies & Procedures, Self-Censorship, and Recommended Reading (CCBC)
https://ccbc.education.wisc.edu/freedom/information.asp

Cooperative Children’s Book Center

Contact:
School of Education
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Madison, WI 53706
Phone: (608) 263-5720
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See also:
What is... Questions and Answers on Intellectual Freedom
A CCBC Q & A forum for librarians, teachers, administrators and others thinking through what the principles of intellectual freedom look like in practice.
http://go.wisc.edu/stfid

CCBC Intellectual Freedom Information Services

The Cooperative Children’s Book Center