



Emerging | Exemplar Essay

Censorship in Libraries

Say “No” to Censorship



Clarity and Focus

The essay makes a very general claim (“I don’t think books should be taken off the shelves”). The essay contains a list of opinions (“It is very foolish” and “it should be put on a special shelf”) rather than maintaining a strong focus on a claim regarding censorship. Counterclaims are not addressed. The demands of the prompt are not fully met.



Support and Evidence

Clear and relevant examples are not used to support the claim. Some attempt is made to justify not censoring books or suggest alternatives (“make it harder to do research” and “If I have the right to remove a book”), but no example or statements are clearly developed in support of a claim.



Organization

Ideas appear as a series (“offended by different things,” “not fair to others,” and “harder to do research”) with few attempts at an organizational structure. Only one transition is used (“In conclusion”). There is no clear progression of ideas.



Language and Style

A formal tone is not established or maintained (“It is very foolish”). Word choice is poor and nonspecific (“offended by different things” and “harder to do research”). Sentences tend to be informal and unvaried with similar structures.



Using Exemplars in Your Lessons

Exemplar essays are tools to take abstract descriptions and make them more concrete for students. One way to use them is to print the clean copies of the essays and allow students to use the rubric to make notes or even find examples of important elements of an essay - thesis statements, introductions, evidence, conclusions, transitions, etc. Teachers can also use exemplars to illustrate what each score point within a trait ‘looks like’ in an authentic student essay. For additional ideas, please see “25 Ways to Use Exemplar Essays” by visiting the Curriculum Resources page in Help.

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Censorship goes against our freedom of speech. I don't think books should be taken off of library shelves because they offend people because everyone is offended by different things. Eventually there would be nothing to read! It is very foolish that just one person can take a book out just because they disliked it, it is not fair for others. Maybe parents should step up and tell the kids “No!” instead of allowing the library to make the choices for everyone. Taking books off shelves would make it harder to do research. If something is inappropriate then it should be put on a special shelf. In conclusion, I think they should not put bans on libraries. You should teach your children to deal with problems on their own. If I have the right to remove a book off the shelf then anyone else can too.



Notes
