



Developing | Exemplar Essay

Censorship in Libraries

Sometimes You Need Censorship



Clarity and Focus

The essay introduces a broad claim based on the topic (“People should be able to read and listen to things from the library without being offended by it so we should make sure those things aren’t seen on library shelves”), but does not fully address the demands of the prompt through a specific focus. A counterclaim is not introduced.



Support and Evidence

Attempts are made to provide evidence as to why books should be banned (“contain inappropriate language, sex, and other disturbing things”), but the writer doesn’t fully develop this idea. Ideas are introduced but not supported (“I want my children to grow up innocent...”).



Organization

There is a basic organizational pattern with attempts at an introduction and conclusion (“Can you imagine a world where anything goes?” and “I read this wonderful book that taught me something new in life would be the best thing to hear and then we wouldn’t need censorship in libraries”). Transitions to maintain a flow of ideas are minimal (“In conclusion”).



Language and Style

A formal and objective tone is not established (“I say no thank you to a book about sex”). Word choice does not have an academic tone (“stuff,” “things,” and “okay”). There are some errors in conventions that do not greatly impede meaning (“and etc.”). Sentence structure tends to be similar throughout the essay.



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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Notes

Can you imagine a world where anything goes? Sometimes it seems like that's where we're heading in this world. As a teen I hear terrible things just by walking through the halls in school. I think that censorship is a good thing in some cases, like if it's too bad or inappropriate scenes in a book. Harsh language and inappropriate scenes in the stories will most likely make kids say the words and/or reenact the bad stuff. There are plenty of books, movies, and magazines that contain inappropriate language, sex, and other disturbing things. People should be able to read and listen to things from the library without being offended by it so we should make sure those things aren't seen on library shelves.

Parents don't like it when kids are reading about inappropriate behavior. As a future educator of a new generation I would never want children reading books like "Fifty Shades of Grey." I am okay with teen love and dorky teens, but I say no thank you to a book about sex. I want my children to grow up innocent, and live life to the fullest without reading about sexual intercourse and other inappropriate behavior.

In conclusion, if we could put more important learning in books, movies, and etc. there would be less aggression in the world. Having a more positive day and going out and saying I read this wonderful book that taught me something new in life would be the best thing to hear and then we wouldn't need censorship in libraries or anywhere else.