

# 2023 State Journalism Championship



## #3 Newspaper Editorial Cartooning

**Time Limit – 1:15**

**Directions:** You are to create an editorial cartoon by hand or digitally on one of the provided editorial articles. There is no standard size for the cartoon; however, it should not exceed 8 ½” by 11”. You should have your own blank paper, pencils, pens, or markers but no additional materials such as newspapers, magazines, writing guides, etc. will be allowed in the contest room. Entries will be evaluated on quality, expression, and approach.

### When you are finished:

1. **Type or print your first and last name on your advertisement.**
  2. **Save your document as a PDF with the filename: yourfirstlastname\_newspapereditorialcartooning\_Class (For example: SusieSmith\_newspapereditorialcartooning\_ClassA)**
  3. **Notify the proctor when you are finished.**
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### **EDITORIAL/OPPOSING**

Parents who don't like specific books can have their kids opt out of an assignment without infringing on the rights of others. The National Coalition against Censorship explained that "Even books or materials that many find 'objectionable' may have educational value, and the decision about what to use in the classroom should be based on professional judgments and standards, not individual preferences." In the 1982 Supreme Court ruling on *Board of Education v. Pico*, Justice William Brennan wrote that taking books off library shelves could violate students' First Amendment rights, adding that, "Local school boards may not remove books from school libraries simply because they dislike the ideas contained in those books."

Robie H. Harris, author of frequently challenged children's books including *It's Perfectly Normal: Changing Bodies, Growing up, Sex, and Sexual Health*, stated, "I think these books look at the topics, the concerns, the worry, the fascination that kids have today... It's the world in which they're living." Many books that have long been required reading to become educated about literature and American history are frequently challenged, such as: *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger, *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck, *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee, *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker, *Beloved* by Toni Morrison, and *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston. Forty-six of the Radcliffe Publishing Group's "Top 100 Novels of the 20th Century" are frequently challenged. Banning these books would deprive students of essential cultural and historical knowledge, as well as differing points of view.

### **EDITORIAL/SUPPORTIVE**

Having books with adult topics available in libraries limits parents' ability to choose when their children are mature enough to read specific material. "Literary works containing explicit sex, explicit & violent descriptions, vulgar and obscene language" were on the approved reading list for grades 7-12, according to Speak up for Standards, a group seeking age-appropriate reading materials for students in Dallas, Texas. If books with inappropriate material are available in libraries, children or teens can be exposed to books their parents wouldn't approve of before the parents even find out what their children are reading. Bans are necessary because, "opting your child out of reading a certain book doesn't protect him or her. They are still surrounded by the other students who are going to be saturated with this book," said writer Macey France.

Books in the young adult genre often contain adult themes that young people aren't ready to experience. Of the top ten most challenged books in 2022, one had LGBTQ+ content, two were sexually explicit, five dealt with racism and anti-police opinions, and others had profanity and drug use. According to Jenni White, a former public school science teacher, "Numerous studies on the use of graphic material by students indicate negative psychological effects." The American Academy of Pediatrics has found that exposure to violence in media, including in books, can impact kids by making them act aggressively and desensitizing them to violence.

SOURCE: procon.org. <https://www.procon.org/headlines/banned-books-top-3-pros-and-cons/>