

Intellectual Freedom 101

CCBC Intellectual Freedom Information Services

Intellectual freedom supports teaching, learning and the free and open exchange of ideas and information essential to democracy. Too often there are misconceptions about how and why library and classroom materials are chosen. Librarians and teachers should be able to talk about the thoughtful selection of collection and curriculum resources as something that supports the needs, interests and rights of children and teens.



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!

CCBC

The Cooperative
Children's Book Center

CCBC
Intellectual
Freedom
Information
Services



**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://tinyurl.com/kmm9y4a>

**Kids: Know Your Rights!
(ALA Association for Library Service to Children)**

<http://tinyurl.com/6vlz29r>

**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

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See also:

What IF: 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/s4ofsl>

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Infographic created by CCBC Intellectual Freedom Information Services Coordinator Samantha Jackson and librarian Megan Schliesman. CCBC IF bookmark image designed by Barry Roal Carlsen, UW-Madison Communications.

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