



## ***Beyond the Deliberation:*** **Resources for Continued Engagement on** ***Book Censorship***

One of the key deliberative dispositions that the Deliberative Citizenship Initiative (DCI) has identified is an “action orientation.” While dialogue and deliberation are themselves important contributors to a healthy democracy, they become even more valuable when they lead to shared agreement on key issues and an intentional commitment to take either individual or collective action on them.

Such action can come in a range of forms and should be broadly understood. It might involve issuing a set of recommendations or deciding to support a particular policy. It might also manifest as developing a better understanding of a topic, connecting with relevant local or national organizations, participating in continued discussions, or generating new approaches to engaging with the issue.

To support such an orientation, the DCI shares a series of “action pathways” for participants to consider after each event or activity it sponsors. Please see the pathways below related to the topic of ***Book Censorship: In What Contexts Should We Censor Books, If Ever? Who Gets to Decide?*** Engaging in these activities is voluntary -- participants are free to choose any of the pathways, or none. But we encourage you to at least consider them as options that can build on the conversation you just had with your fellow deliberative citizens.

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### **Get Informed**

- Learn about the American Library Association (ALA) [Office for Intellectual Freedom](#), which provides information on book bans and challenges, often from a perspective advocating for freedom of information.
- Engage with a perspective criticizing concerns about book banning and censorship published by the [Heritage Foundation](#).
- Find resources and articles from the [National Coalition Against Censorship](#) (NCAC) supporting free expression.
- Read this article in [Reason Magazine](#) that problematizes the book censorship discussion in the American context.
- Check out these resources and articles from [PEN America](#) on book bans and the organization’s legal actions against book banning.
- Explore a defense of book banning in [The Federalist](#) as a responsible means of controlling what children should and should not be exposed to.

## Get Connected

- Find and use [your local library](#)—check out books, support their efforts, suggest a book for them to acquire, or seek to challenge a title.
- Read and discuss [frequently challenged and banned books](#) that are available at the [Davidson College Library](#) to make your own determination about them.
- Visit the [Banned Books Week](#) site to learn about an annual event celebrating the freedom to read, with resources and events listings.
- Connect with [Moms for Liberty](#) and other organizations working to empower parents to control what books schoolchildren may have access to.
- Join the [Freedom to Read Foundation](#), an organization advocating for widespread access to books.
- Support the [Human Rights Campaign's efforts](#) to protect LGBTQ+ rights and its work related to [Florida's new laws](#) about LGBTQ+ themes in school.

## Get Involved

- Get involved in [advocacy and education around book censorship](#) with the American Library Association.
- Challenge a library book by using one of the removal scripts provided by [Citizens Defending Freedom](#).
- Join the [Freedom to Read Foundation](#) and support its efforts to help library workers protect their patrons' First Amendment rights.
- Become a parent-activist trained by [Parents' Rights in Education](#) and supports its work by joining its Club 12 x 12.
- Support the [American Civil Liberties Union](#) (ACLU), which provides resources and legal perspectives on censorship and free speech with a focus on civil liberties.
- Read books Join discussions and book clubs focusing on banned books and censorship issues on [Goodreads](#).
- [Submit an op-ed](#) about your own view regarding book censorship to your local newspaper.

## About This Guide

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**Author:** Sara Copic

**Executive Editor:** Graham Bullock

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### **The Deliberative Citizenship Initiative**

The Deliberative Citizenship Initiative (DCI) is dedicated to the creation of opportunities for Davidson students, faculty, staff, alumni, and members of the wider community to productively engage with one another on difficult and contentious issues facing our community and society. The DCI regularly hosts facilitated deliberations on a wide range of topics and organizes training workshops for deliberation facilitators. To learn more about these opportunities, visit [www.deliberativecitizenship.org](http://www.deliberativecitizenship.org).

### **DCI Deliberation Guides**

The DCI has launched this series of Deliberation Guides as a foundation for such conversations. They provide both important background information on the topics in question and a specific framework for engaging with these topics. The Guides are designed to be informative without being overwhelming and structured without being inflexible. They cover a range of topics and come in a variety of formats but share several common elements, including opportunities to commit to a shared set of Conversation Agreements, learn about diverse perspectives, and reflect together on the conversation and its yield. The DCI encourages conversations based on these guides to be moderated by a trained facilitator. After each conversation, the DCI also suggests that its associated Pathways Guide be distributed to the conversation's participants.

### **DCI Pathways Guides**

For every Deliberation Guide, the DCI has also developed an associated Pathways Guide, which outlines opportunities for action that participants can consider that are related to the covered topic. These Pathways Guides reinforce the DCI's commitment to an action orientation, a key deliberative disposition. While dialogue and deliberation are themselves important contributors to a healthy democracy, they become even more valuable when they lead to individual or collective action on the key issues facing society. Such action can come in a range of forms and should be broadly understood. It might involve developing a better understanding of a topic, connecting with relevant local or national organizations, generating new approaches to an issue, or deciding to support a particular policy.

If you make use of this guide in a deliberation, please provide attribution to the Deliberative Citizenship Initiative and email [dc@deliberativecitizenship.org](mailto:dc@deliberativecitizenship.org) to tell us about your event. To access more of our growing library of Deliberation Guides, Pathways Guides and other resources, visit [www.deliberativecitizenship.org/readings-and-resources](http://www.deliberativecitizenship.org/readings-and-resources).