

# Banned Books Challenge



September 20 - October 31, 2024

*Reading is Empowering!*

Learn about new perspectives and celebrate the freedom to read books that have been challenged or banned throughout the years.

Mark one circle for every ten minutes you read or two circles for every activity you complete. Activities are listed on the back. Collect 250 points and earn two activity badges to receive prizes!

10	20	30	40	50
60	70	80	90	100
110	120	130	140	150
160	170	180	190	200
210	220	230	240	250

*To learn more about the challenge visit [loutitlibrary.org/banned2024](http://loutitlibrary.org/banned2024).*

# Activity Badges

*Each activity is worth 20 points. To earn a badge, complete at least one activity. For more activity options for each badge, visit the Beanstack app or website at [loutitlibrary.beanstack.org](http://loutitlibrary.beanstack.org).*

## □ **Empathize** Badge

- Have a conversation with someone you disagree with. Rather than debating the contentious issue, share your story of how you came to form your opinion and then listen to how they arrived at theirs.
- Create a Feeling Collage. Cut out faces from magazines and arrange them onto a large workspace. Think about what emotions might be displayed and discuss them with friends or family.

## □ **Educate** Badge

- Have you read a banned or challenged book in the past? Research why it was banned (ask a librarian for help!)
- Watch this YouTube video ([bit.ly/4dtEDke](https://bit.ly/4dtEDke)) by the Smithsonian to learn about the first book to be suppressed and a wide-ranging conversation about the history of book bans in the United States.

## □ **Empower** Badge

- "Body language affects how others see us, but it may also change how we see ourselves." Watch this YouTube video ([bit.ly/3MaZmx1](https://bit.ly/3MaZmx1)) and practice confidence-boosting postures to feel empowered.
- Read the accompanying list of talking points to help you when discussing the topic of Intellectual Freedom with your neighbors, friends, local librarian, or elected officials.

## □ **Engage** Badge

- Stop by Loutit District Library to view our educational exhibit and book display.
- Attend our "Conversation About Censorship" panel event on Thursday, September 26 at 6:30 PM.
- Recommend a challenged book to a friend or family member.

## **What is Intellectual Freedom?**

Intellectual Freedom is the principle that all individuals have the right to seek, access, and receive information and services without judgment, bias, discrimination, or fear of retaliation.

## **Why is Intellectual Freedom Important?**

Intellectual Freedom allows individuals to educate themselves and become self-informed without fear of censorship. Intellectual Freedom also works to actively counteract the historical suppression of voices and viewpoints.

## **What are talking points that can be used when discussing Intellectual Freedom?**

When discussing the topic of Intellectual Freedom with your neighbors, friends, local librarian, or elected officials, here are a few points to keep in mind:

- Intellectual freedom is the idea that all individuals have the right to seek, access, and receive information and services without judgment, bias, discrimination, or fear of retaliation. Basically, you can read and pursue topics of interest to you without people telling you not to.
- Intellectual Freedom also means that no one can dictate what a child can read except that child's parent.
- Intellectual freedom allows for all voices and viewpoints to be heard and visible including historically underrepresented groups.
- Intellectual freedom encourages independent thinking, well-rounded decision-making, and critical analysis of a subject matter.
- Intellectual freedom is a human right.
- Intellectual freedom is the foundation for the freedoms of expression, speech, and the press. It also informs freedom of information and the right to privacy.
- Intellectual freedom ensures that everyone has the right to access, explore, and consider information as well as express ideas in their own voice. This also allows people to make their own decisions about what they read.
- Librarians are educated professionals who select materials and develop programming for the populations they serve based on their communities' diverse information needs.