

Be Prepared!

BOOK CHALLENGE CHECKLIST

BEFORE A CHALLENGE:

Do you have a selection policy? Is it transparent/accessible? Does it include comics?

Do you have a separate challenge policy in place? If not, create one.

Identify stakeholders in your library system--who are the deciders on book bans?

Compare policy models. Are your policies the best they can be?

Pay attention to those books that are being challenged around the nation; build advocacy.

DURING A CHALLENGE:

What are the reviews of the book?

For schools, are there curriculum connections?

For both school/public libraries, does this book fill a need? Is it an award winner?

Is your challenge process being followed?

What community supports are available to you?

Report the challenge to the ALA Office of Intellectual Freedom.

AFTER A CHALLENGE:

Win, lose, or draw, make it a point to thank the people who helped you--you may need them again.

Update your policies where needed to strengthen them against future challenges.

Many challenge policies have a "cooling off" period, where the same book cannot be challenged for a number of years. Is this in place for your library?

Prepare by asking--are there books similar to your challenged title which may also trigger a challenge?

Live to library another day. You are not alone.