

Book bans are affecting readers, authors, and educators nationwide. It's important that we stand up for our right to read and provide encouragement to those who are affected most by these bans.

We encourage you to send a postcard in support of the freedom to read. Whether you choose to contact an author, an educator, a library worker, or a decision maker (politicians, school and library board members, city council members, etc.), we've provided templates with sample wording you can use to craft your message.

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## Postcards to Authors

- Instead of focusing on the negative impact of book bans, focus on the ways that an author's work is valuable to you and others your age. Consider answering the following questions in your postcard to an author:
  - In what ways did their work impact your life?
  - How did their work help you understand something about yourself or the people around you?
  - How often do you recommend their books to other people, and why do you do so?
- Thank authors for their art and encourage them to keep creating.

### Samples

"Your work has had a profound impact on my life, helping me navigate complex emotions and understand the world in a more profound way. Thank you for sharing your unique perspective with us."

"Your stories have allowed me to connect with characters that reflect my own experiences, making me feel seen and understood. I frequently recommend your books to my peers because of the empathy and relatability they offer."

"Your writing has given me a voice and the courage to express myself. I admire your creativity and dedication, and I encourage you to continue creating meaningful stories that touch the hearts of young readers like me."

## Postcards to Library Staff and Educators

- Let teachers and library staff know that you appreciate the work they do, whether everyday tasks or fighting for your right to read what you want.
- Encourage teachers and library staff to keep adding books that interest you to their collections.

### Samples

"Thank you for your unwavering commitment to providing us with diverse and thought-provoking literature. Your dedication to maintaining a vibrant and inclusive library collection has positively shaped my educational journey."

“Your efforts to defend our right to read freely are commendable. Please continue to add books that resonate with us and challenge us to think beyond our immediate surroundings. Your work is crucial in fostering a love for learning and understanding.”

“Your dedication to protecting our literary choices is inspiring. I appreciate your courage in the face of adversity and your determination to uphold the values of intellectual freedom and diversity in education.”

## Postcards to Decision Makers

- Before you begin, ask yourself:
  - How have book bans harmed you, your friends, and other people your age?
  - How does it make you feel when the people who are trying to ban books claim to be protecting young readers like you?
  - What do you wish adults understood about book bans?
- Ask decision makers to defend your right to read what you want. Help them understand that the individuals trying to ban books don't speak for most people, and they don't speak for you.
- Don't forget to thank decision makers who have made sure that student rights are protected. Ask them to continue doing so and to encourage others to join them in fighting book bans.
- Let decision makers know that they can reach out to you, your peers, library staff and educators, and advocacy organizations for information about book bans and ways to fight them.

### Samples

“Book bans have restricted my access to important stories and diverse perspectives, hindering my intellectual growth and understanding of the world. It's disheartening when these bans are justified as 'protecting' us, as they only limit our ability to learn and grow.”

“I urge you to defend our right to read freely and ensure that the voices of young readers are heard and respected. Please collaborate with us, educators, library workers, and advocacy organizations to create policies that promote inclusivity and intellectual exploration in our schools and communities.”

“Your support for our right to access diverse literature is crucial. Please continue to advocate for our literary freedom and encourage others to join the fight against book bans. Reach out to us, educators, library workers, and advocacy groups to understand the impact of these bans on our education and intellectual development.”