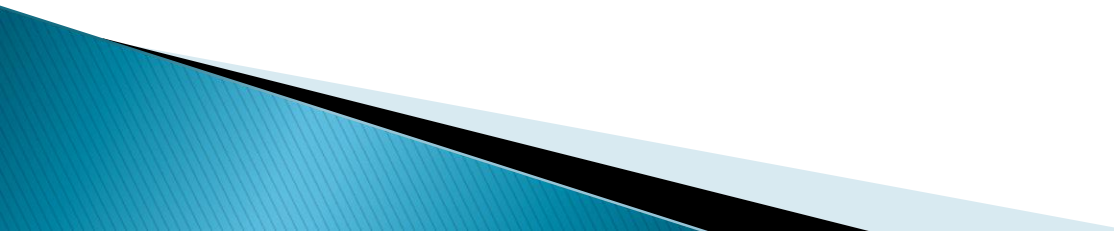


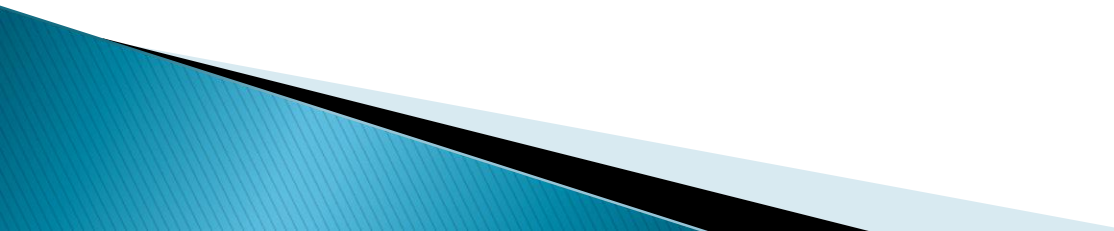
# Intellectual Freedom

Banned Books Week 2011

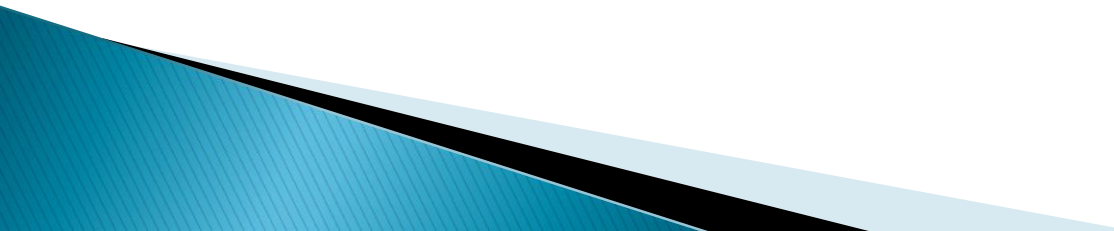
# Intellectual Freedom

- ▶ Freedom of thought and expression
  - ▶ Intellectual Freedom is the right to seek and receive information on all subjects from all points of view without restriction and without having the subject of one's interests examined or scrutinized by others<sup>1</sup>
  - ▶ Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers<sup>2</sup>
- 

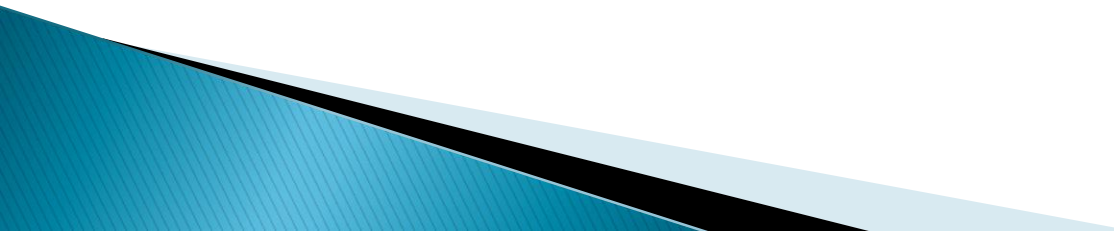
# United States Constitution

- ▶ First Amendment: Right to Freedom of Speech, Religion, Press and Assembly
  - ▶ Fourth Amendment: Freedom from unlawful search and seizure
- 

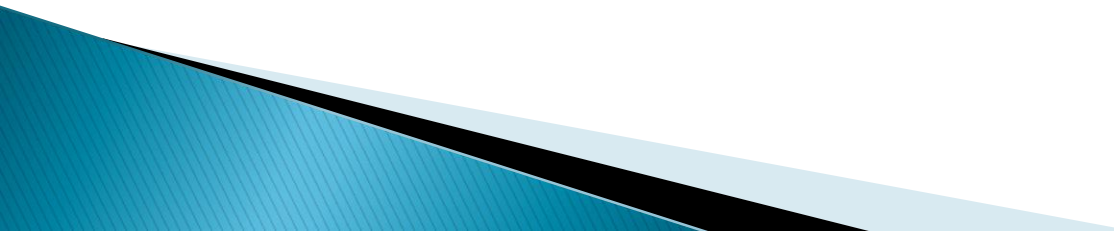
# Library Bill of Rights<sup>3</sup>

- ▶ You have the right to use the library regardless of age, nationality, economic status or personal values
  - ▶ You have the right to choose the information you seek and find in the library
  - ▶ A library must provide information on all sides of any issue
- 

# Banned Books Week

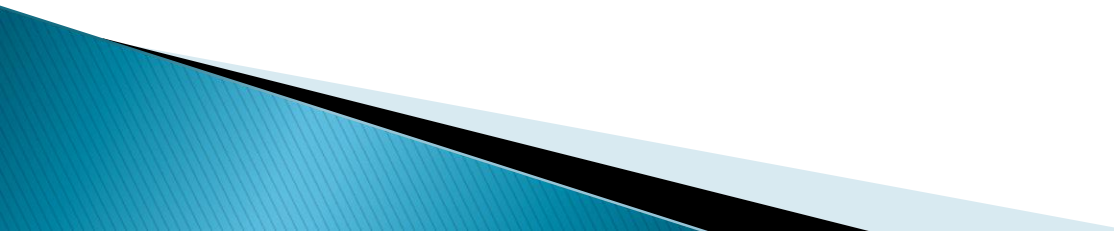
- ▶ Choosing a book is an individual decision
  - ▶ In choosing to read a book you are making a personal decision of what is appropriate to you.
  - ▶ You do not have to read a book if you realize it is not appropriate for you
  - ▶ The library and the community does not have the right to withhold resources from you.
- 

# Challenging/Banning Books

- ▶ Books are very rarely banned – usually challenged
    - Banned → completely removed
    - Challenged → considered and altered or replaced
  - ▶ Books are challenged/banned based on content or educational value
  - ▶ Main reason: inappropriate for age level
- 

# The Role of the Library

Libraries must provide equal access to resources. Library materials are chosen based on the following guidelines:

- ▶ Budget
  - ▶ Age level served
  - ▶ Patron interest
  - ▶ Cultural considerations
- 

“Liberty, taking the word in its concrete sense, consists in the ability to choose.”

~ Simone Weil, French Philosopher





# Writing Prompt

Please respond to one of the following prompts in your Thinker's Notebooks.

- ▶ How are you allowed to “choose” in the library? What are your library “liberties”? Does this library meet your needs/choices? Why/Why not.
- ▶ Do you feel that as a teenager, you have the right to choose? Should you be allowed more “liberties”? How much freedom and ability to choose should you have? **Explain your answer**

# Resources

<sup>1</sup> Taken from *Intellectual Freedom Manual: Eighth Edition* [Office for Intellectual Freedom](#) 2010

<sup>2</sup> Article 19 of the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#)

<sup>3</sup> *The Library Bill of Rights*. ALA. 1996.  
<http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/intfreedom/librarybill/index.cfm>