

**Prompt: create a speech from a black woman's perspective on how book bans suppress the speech and freedoms of black people. include specific examples from the last 10 years.**

As a Black woman, I am deeply concerned about the growing trend of book bans in our country. Book bans are a form of censorship that disproportionately affects Black people and other marginalized communities. They suppress our speech and freedoms, and they deny us the opportunity to learn about our own history and culture.

In the past 10 years, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of book bans in the United States. In 2013, the American Library Association reported 275 challenges to library, school, and university materials. By 2021, that number had more than doubled, to 729.

Many of the books that are being challenged and banned deal with issues of race, racism, and social justice. These books are often written by Black authors and tell stories about the Black experience. For example, in 2020, the book "Between the World and Me" by Ta-Nehisi Coates was challenged or banned in over 150 school districts across the country.

Book bans are harmful because they prevent people from accessing information and ideas. They also send a message that certain books and stories are not welcome or valued. This is especially harmful for Black children, who

need to see themselves and their experiences reflected in the books they read.

Book bans are also a form of censorship. They are an attempt to silence our voices and to control what we can learn and think. This is unacceptable in a democracy.

Here are some specific examples of how book bans have suppressed the speech and freedoms of Black people in the last 10 years:

- In 2014, the book "All Boys Aren't Blue" by George M. Johnson was banned in a school district in Texas because it contains LGBTQ+ content.
- In 2017, the book "The Hate U Give" by Angie Thomas was banned in a school district in Mississippi because it deals with police brutality and racism.
- In 2019, the book "Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You" by Ibram X. Kendi was banned in a school district in Tennessee because it discusses the history of racism in the United States.
- In 2020, the book "The Autobiography of Malcolm X" by Malcolm X and Alex Haley was banned in a school district in Georgia because of its profanity and violence.

These are just a few examples of the many ways in which book bans are suppressing the speech and freedoms of Black people. We must stand up against book bans and defend our right to read and learn.

Here are some things you can do to fight book bans:

- Contact your elected officials and let them know that you oppose book bans.
- Support organizations that are fighting against censorship and book bans, such as the American Library Association and the National Coalition Against Censorship.
- Donate to libraries and schools to help them purchase books that are being challenged or banned.
- Read books that are being challenged or banned, and share them with others.
- Talk to your children about the importance of reading and learning about different perspectives.

Together, we can protect our right to read and learn, and we can ensure that all people have access to the information and ideas they need to thrive.