

Good afternoon. There may be legitimate reasons for the Board to conclude texts do not meet SC's educational mission. But no book should be removed *or* retained based merely on the preexisting opinions of government officials.

The committee's summary of *1984* reads, inaccurately, "There are no excerpts or passages in the work originally written by George Orwell that are not 'Age and Developmentally Appropriate' as defined by" Regulation 43-170.

I have to conclude there is viewpoint discrimination in the review *process* because only the three "classics" (to use the words of a Department spokesperson) have been reviewed without any included quotes, while the quotes included with the non- "classics" appear to have come from book-banning websites like the Moms for Liberty-affiliated BookLooks.

It is difficult to believe the reviewer read *1984*, which ***objectively contains "sexual content" as described in the regulation (see parts a, b, and e of the section of state law cited)***. This content *must* be considered if the "classics" are to be evaluated using the same process as the other books. (Warning: explicit sexual content and discussion of sexual assault.)

[quote] "I wanted to rape you and then murder you afterwards..." (page 101)

"... she had torn her clothes off, and when she flung them aside it was by the same magnificent gesture by which a whole civilization seemed to be annihilated. Her body gleamed white in the sun..."

"He pressed her down upon the grass, among the fallen bluebells. This time there was no difficulty. Presently the rising and falling of their breasts slowed to normal speed..."

"Their embrace had been a battle, the climax a victory. It was a blow struck against the Party. It was a political act." (pages 104-105)

"He could feel her breasts, ripe yet firm, through her overalls" (113).

There's more, but we only have three minutes for one of the most important books in Western literature.

Should a book be reduced to a few out-of-context sentences? Of course not. If we consider the *artistic and literary merit* of *1984*, *of course* it should not be removed. These scenes are central to the book's message about how repressive governments *ensor* ideas and *restrict sexuality* as a means of control.

But if the committee selectively applies that standard to books it likes, while reducing those it doesn't to quotes from BookLooks, it is engaging in the kind of viewpoint discrimination the regulation forbids, and imperiling students' Constitutional right to receive information.

Members of this committee and anyone watching, please push for changes to the regulation and procedures documents to require *the consideration of artistic and literary merit for all challenged works*. In the meantime, if the committee retains *1984* while rejecting other books merely because they contain "sexual content," it is in violation of the regulation, and in conflict with the October 8 Department memo.

The solution is to change the regulation, not to pretend it says something it doesn't. Thank you.

Note: there was not enough time to fully exemplify the "sexual content" in *1984*. Here's a more comprehensive list I didn't get to share with the committee:

1984
"I wanted to rape you and then murder you afterwards..." (page 101)
"He would flog her to death with a rubber truncheon. He would tie her naked to a stake and shoot her full of arrows like Saint Sebastian. He would ravish her and cut her throat at the moment of climax." "Yet he could have endured living with her if it had not been for just one thing—sex. As soon as he touched her she seemed to wince and stiffen. To embrace her was like embracing a jointed wooden image. And what was strange was that even when she was clasping him against her he had the feeling that she was simultaneously pushing him away with all her strength. The rigidity of her muscles managed to convey that impression. She would lie there with shut eyes, neither resisting nor co-operating but SUBMITTING."
"Their embrace had been a battle, the climax a victory. It was a blow struck against the Party.

It was a political act.” (pages 104-105)

“He could feel her breasts, ripe yet firm, through her overalls” (113).

“after six days of this, when the great orgasm was quivering to its climax and the general hatred of Eurasia had boiled up into such delirium that if the crowd could have got their hands on the 2,000 Eurasian war-criminals who were to be publicly hanged on the last day of the proceedings, they would unquestionably have torn them to pieces”

“... she had torn her clothes off, and when she flung them aside it was by the same magnificent gesture by which a whole civilization seemed to be annihilated. Her body gleamed white in the sun...”

“She threw herself down on the bed, and at once, without any kind of preliminary in the most coarse, horrible way you can imagine, pulled up her skirt.”

“She stood looking at him for an instant, then felt at the zipper of her overalls.”

“He pressed her down upon the grass, among the fallen bluebells. This time there was no difficulty. Presently the rising and falling of their breasts slowed to normal speed...”
