

The following is an outline template. Reorganize it to fit your order of presentation. Feel free to add to it to make your outline fit your writing plan.

- I. Introduction
  - A. General comments about book banning
    - 1. Faction 1 - Need to protect kids
    - 2. Faction 2 - Kids need to be encouraged to make good decisions about reading, but the decision should be theirs.
    - 3. Middle ground -
  - B. Transition to the thesis related to individual book.
- II. Brief explanation of plot and theme (but tie to thesis; see how Nathan Peterson did this.)
- III. The book's historical controversies
  - A. \_\_\_\_
  - B. \_\_\_\_
  - C. \_\_\_\_
  - D. \_\_\_\_
- IV. Specific ideas and passages that may have drawn negative attention
  - A. \_\_\_\_
  - B. \_\_\_\_
  - C. \_\_\_\_
  - D. \_\_\_\_
- V. Redemptive qualities of book that counter negative concerns
  - A. \_\_\_\_
  - B. \_\_\_\_
  - C. \_\_\_\_
  - D. \_\_\_\_
- VI. Conclusion
  - A. Summarize
  - B. Tie back to thesis
  - C. End with punch

The outline above provides a possible order of presentation. However you choose to organize, the following are the things you must include:

1. Background about the book's controversies, challenges and/or banning.
2. A thesis that explains reasons you would or would not recommend banning the book.
3. References to the story's plot and themes and any other details that will

enhance the reader's understanding of your essay. (Include enough information so that the reader of your essay feels he knows your book even though he may not have read it, but do not write plot summary solely to fill space.)

4. Passages that might invite banning. (Include your observations about the passages.)

5. Why the book should/should not be available in the school library or be required reading, etc.