| Title | The Escalating Crisis of Book Bans |
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| Catchphrase | As America has unwaveringly/steadily slid towards censorship since the 2019 pandemic, the set of documents provides multiple viewpoints on book bans. |
| The set of documents | While two <u>The New York Times</u> opinion pieces (docs 2 and 3) respectively published in May and October 2023 strongly oppose such practices through testimonies, <u>The Diamond Editor</u> of January 2024 (doc.1) elaborates on its advocacy for restriction. The corpus is supplemented by three piecharts from <u>uniteagainst-bookbans.org</u> (doc.5) and Matt Krauss's pick (doc.4), both highlighting the US surge in book bans. |
| Key question | How have US book bans turned into ideological combat ? |
| Subtle outline | Although protecting children appears as a main argument to push for bans, the role of schools is being questioned uncovering deeper motivations at play. |

| Axis 1 Topic sentence | The debate over book banning reflects deep concerns about children's exposure to explicit content / pushes fuelled by the threats they pose to children. |
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| Notions threat/protection | Doc.4 showcases LGBTQ, sex education or racism as reasons why books were challenged by a Republican Texan State Representative in 2021. The need for protection is bolstered by Doc. 1 which underlines children are not mature enough to understand. This protection is encapsulated in figures in Doc.5- the significant rise in book challenges. Hence parents' control over when and how their children are introduced to |
| nuance : exposure = empowerment | such topics comes to the fore in Docs 1 and 2 since parents' consent is acknowledged as possibly necessary for some material. • Still, Doc 3 pinpoints that books can empower youngsters and help them confront/overcome their personal trauma, which goes hand in hand with doc.2 emphasizing that access to a wide range of literature is critical (= essential) to develop a child's understanding of the world and imagination. |

| Axis 2 Topic sentence | The role of schools and libraries in children's education is being questioned |
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| Notions | • For Doc.2 , libraries have historically been safe spaces / havens for intellectual exploration guided by knowledgeable librarians. Yet Doc.1 |
| haven | draws a distinction between books accessible from school and other |
| /censorship | libraries. Plus, it supports recent laws that censor sexual content in school libraries to preserve children's innocence. But for Doc.2 , these are laughable |
| laws / | concerns as proven by the author's own Republican Catholic education. Doc |
| restrictions | 5 epitomizes the pivotal role of schools in the process being at the core of demands and challenges. While acknowledging there may be valid reasons to place restrictions on specific books in schools, Doc.3 argues these ought to be thoughtfully debated. |

| Axis 3 Topic sentence | The debate over book banning seems mostly rooted in today's political context / deeper motivations are at stake |
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| rise in book challenges censorship conservative view democracy kids' wellness | Doc.5 reflects how the efforts to challenge books have lately expanded as regards the number of books along with the types of libraries. Censorship is focused on/ singling out titles meant to convey progressive ideology, Doc.4 implies. The trend is also pinpointed in Docs 2 and 3 which argue the current wave of book bans is part of a systematically engineered conservative effort to suppress inclusiveness and diversity. This claim is corroborated in Doc.4 while Doc. 1 advocates Christian values fostering children's innocence. For Doc.2, such maneuvers are antithetical to democratic values / represent an overreeach that undermines democratic principles but are undoubtedly detrimental to youngsters' mental well-being, Doc 3 denounces. |
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| Conclusion | If US book bans have become entwined with broader ideological battles, the future of books seems to be hanging in the balance. |