

2024 Prior Lake Invitational  
Discussion Round #1

According to PEN America, there were 3,326 instances of book banning during the 2022-2023 school year, which represented a 33% increase from the 2021-2022 school year.

Discuss the impact of book bans on American society. In what ways are book bans a breakdown in communication? What issues are at stake when books are banned? What are the consequences of banning books? Is a book ban always a bad thing? How can organizations impacted by book bans strike a balance between granting access to books and removing them from their shelves?

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“Problem-solving Discussion is an effort on the part of a small group to reach a solution to a problem through informal interchange of facts, inferences, and judgments.” (Discussion Outline)

In an attempt to foster a meaningful conversation, discussants will be given a question that allows the group to explore the topic in ways that they decide. It will be up to the group to determine anything not explicitly prescribed: groups impacted, individuals and organizations involved in the solution, the criteria used to judge the severity of problems or the success of solutions, et cetera.