

Freedom Walk: New Programming to Celebrate Our Freedom to Read

Sara Jaffarian School Library
Program Award Winner

Tom C. Clark High School

November 5, 2024

PROGRAMMING
Librarian

ALA American Library Association

Welcome and Announcements

- Today's webinar is a presentation of ALA's Public Programs Office, with support from ALA's Cultural Communities Fund (www.ala.org/CCF) in cooperation with the American Association of School Librarians (www.ala.org/aasl).
- Visit www.programminglibrarian.org for more online learning sessions, programs ideas, and grant announcements.

About the Classroom



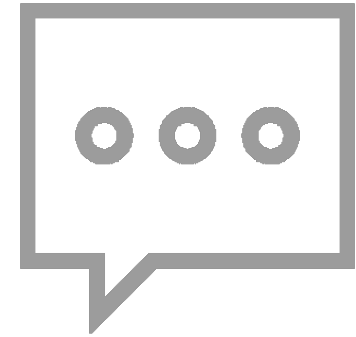
Microphones

Only our presenter has microphone access during the presentation. Live captions can be enabled by clicking on “Show Captions”.



Questions?

Save your questions for the end! We will be reopening the chat at the end of the presentation.



Tech Issues?

Send a message through Q&A.

Recognizing outstanding
humanities programming
in K-12 school libraries

Sara Jaffarian School Library Program Award



Applications open
February 3 – May 1, 2025

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Today's Presenter



Lucy Ibarra Podmore
School Librarian
Tom C. Clark High School
San Antonio, TX

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ALA's 2024 Sara Jaffarian School Library Program Award Winner

A graphic for a 'Freedom Walk' event. It features a central blue circle with the text 'FREEDOM WALK' and 'CELEBRATING OUR RIGHT TO READ'. The background is light blue with scattered red, blue, and white stars. A red, white, and blue striped ribbon is draped across the bottom left. The bottom of the image has a dark blue banner with the text 'PROGRAMMING Librarian' and 'ALA American Library Association'.

**FREEDOM
WALK**

CELEBRATING OUR RIGHT TO READ

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Learning Outcomes

- Identify elements of the censorship issues that could be used as the foundation of your Freedom Walk.
- Customize portions of the Freedom Walk to fit your community's needs.

Our Community

- Large high school, population approximately 3,000 students
- Diverse campus
- Three 1-hour lunch periods
- District is 100,000+ students
- City is 7th largest in the US, 1.4 million residents.



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WHY FREEDOM TO READ VS BANNED BOOKS?



- public perception of issues
- student voice on this issue
- need for education
- build advocacy



THE SET UP

We had five activity stations set up in our courtyard during lunches:

- 1st Amendment & Supreme Court cases
- Censorship terms
- District collection development policy
- Books as Windows and Mirrors
- Who represents me



Teachers collaborating

Check with History and Government teachers for extra credit opportunities. Students took notes and had to report back 1-2 things they learned from the walk. Students received a stamp on their bookmark for each station they visited.



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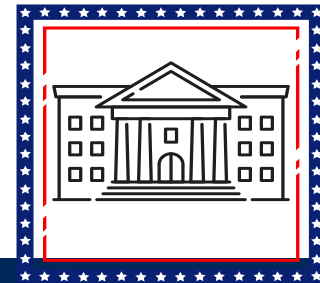
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1st Amendment & Supreme Court cases

This was staffed by the librarian, matching game explaining each term.

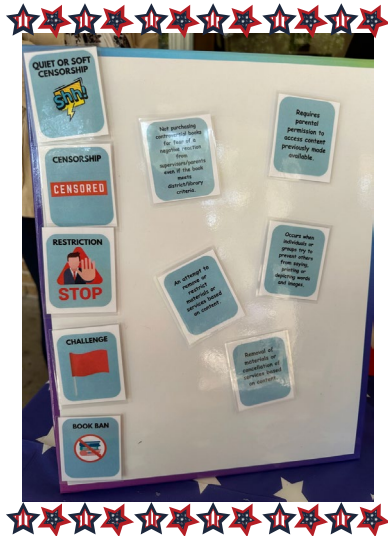


- 1st Amendment
- Pico vs Island Trees SC case
- The Miller Test
- HB900/The Reader Act (TX law)



CENSORSHIP TERMS

This was staffed by the library students or retired librarians who explained the differences between each term. Also displayed books that have been banned in other districts and the reason behind the challenge.



- challenged
- banned
- restricted
- censorship
- soft censorship



Collection Development Policy

This was staffed by our district director and former librarians who worked in our district. They explained the process a book must take in order to make it to our shelves. We had a very simple game of chutes and ladders to help with this explanation.



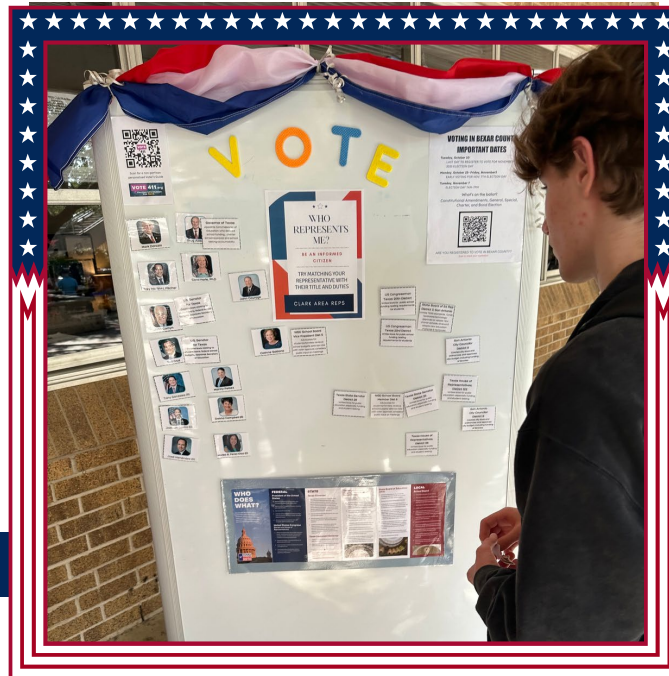
BOOKS AS MIRRORS AND WINDOWS

Staffed by library volunteers, they checked out books available in our library. Students were asked to write on a sticky note any books they considered either a mirror or window for them. Students who completed this activity could select a book to keep.



Who represents me?

Staffed by library assistant and two board members, this activity featured a matching game with pictures and names of elected officials with a description of what position they hold and the duties of that position. We also had voter registration cards at this table.





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Advertising



Books as Windows

Books can serve as windows for readers to glimpse into a life, experience, race or culture that is different from what they know, understand or may have experienced.



What books have served as a great "window" for you? Take a post-it and write down the title and post it on the board.

Come walk with us today during lunch!

2023
FREEDOM TO READ WEEK

FREEDOM WALK

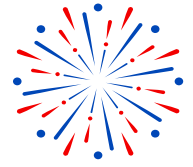
OCT 4 IN THE COURTYARD DURING ALL LUNCHES

Stop by all 5 of our tables to join in our activities and games offering information on topics related to censorship efforts. Giveaways available at each table.

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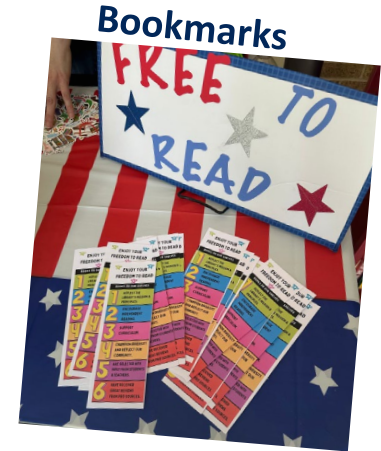
Giveaways



Buttons



Bookmarks



Bookmarks



Stickers

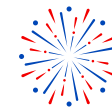
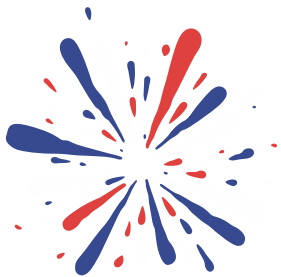


Who represents me?

This table was a jumpstart to a new event, Empowering Voters.



Supplies



**Magnetic
whiteboard
easel**



**Patriotic tablecloths
+ decorations**



Mobile whiteboard

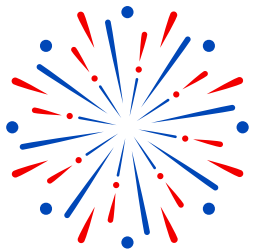


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Final Thoughts

- **Take the temperature of your community**
- **Gather input from your campus administrators, teachers**
- **Adapt to fit your community and budget**
- **Remember, our goal is to offer information.**



Questions?

Please input questions into the
Q&A section.

Thank You!

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