# Unit 1: Censorship in America

Content Area: **Language Arts Literacy**
Course(s): **Lost Literature**
Time Period: **September**
Length: **5 blocks**
Status: **Published**

## Enduring Understandings

Throughout history, books have been banned or challenged for political, religious, and educational content.

Censorship has spread from the political and religious works of our founding fathers to the content found on the internet, television, and movies of contemporary society.

The concept of censorship has been placed under scrutiny when placed next to the First Amendment of our Constitution which stresses our right to freedom of expression.

## Essential Questions

What specific content will cause a book to be banned or challenged?

Who decides what books are banned?

How has technological advancement changed the face of censorship for both advocates and naysayers?

Is censorship legal or ethical?

## Content

The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution

Summaries of Landmark Court Cases (Pico vs. Island Trees BOE, Mapp vs. Ohio, Texas vs. Johnson, and Miranda vs. Arizona)

The Patriot Act

A variety of informational websites including:

-ala.org

-fcc.gov

- firstamendmentcenter.org

*And Tango Makes Three*

"Unconstitutional" - a documentary on the Patriot Act and US policies post September 11th, 2001

## Skills

Examine the idea of censorship in the American classroom and the process by which books are banned and challenged.

Interpret the major points in the Patriot Act and critique what it does in light of the First Amendment.

Review a brief history of court cases and legislation on the subject of banned books, most notably the Pico Case of 1975.