**Opinion essay examples**

Seek local essay writers from diverse backgrounds, occupations and points of view on the harms of book bans and the importance of seeing ourselves and our stories on the shelves.

[Example](https://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/opinion/guest-column/2020/05/19/essay-efforts-ban-books-do-more-harm-than-good/5222403002/) from a student essayist, posted in the Democrat and Chronicle (Rochester, NY)

[Example](https://www.thelcn.com/voices/guest-essay-support-your-local-librarians-by-rejecting-book-bans/article_90956937-c850-5c0a-bb7d-459c80e79a5c.html) from a librarian, posted in the Livingston County News (NY)

[Example](https://www.tampabay.com/opinion/2023/02/16/every-time-i-read-about-banned-book-i-ask-myself-what-dont-they-want-us-see-column/) from a performing arts professor, posted in the Tampa Bay Times

[Example](https://www.nj.com/opinion/2023/02/book-bans-try-and-fail-to-erase-lgbtq-youth-but-are-harmful-to-all-in-the-community-opinion.html) from mental health professional who works with gender diverse youth.

[Example](https://www.instagram.com/p/CoPmk7XLQT0/) from a coalition of local affirming clergy.

The Wilkes County Public Library (NC) hosted an essay contest for local writers, with the winning essays posted in the [Wilkes Journal-Patriot](https://www.journalpatriot.com/news/local-writers-tell-why-books-shouldnt-be-banned/article_ce04ae5b-c9a5-5ac4-b930-3a6bde81c307.html)

Students in York County, PA, spoke out at their local school board; a photojournalist shared their stories in the [Pennsylvania Capital-Star](https://www.penncapital-star.com/commentary/gay-people-and-people-of-color-arent-a-threat-education-isnt-indoctrination-opinion/). You can connect with your state and local education reporter about your group and messages on projects to help share your message more broadly.