

CONCEPT

BLIND DATE WITH A BANNED BOOK

THIS BOOK WAS BANNED FOR ...	
LGBTQ+ CONTENT / PROMOTING GENDER FLUIDITY	✓
SEXUALLY EXPLICIT CONTENT / BEASTIALITY	
OFFENSIVE LANGUAGE / PROFANITY / OBSENTITY	✓
DEPICTION OF SUBSTANCE USE / DRINKING	
CRITIQUE OF SOCIAL HIERARCHIES	
RELIGIOUS VIEWPOINT / ANTI-CHRISTIAN THEMES	
VIOLENCE	
SEXUAL ABUSE / RAPE / INCEST	
POVERTY	
RACIAL SLURS/ RACISM / CRITICAL RACE THEORY	✓
POWER AND CORRUPTION	

CHECK IT OUT!

Step One: The Outreach & Communications Committee combined Banned Books Week and Student Appreciation Week to **CELEBRATE STUDENTS’ RIGHT TO READ.**

Step Two: Spark interest by creating **“REPORT CARDS”** containing a variety of reasons why books are banned.

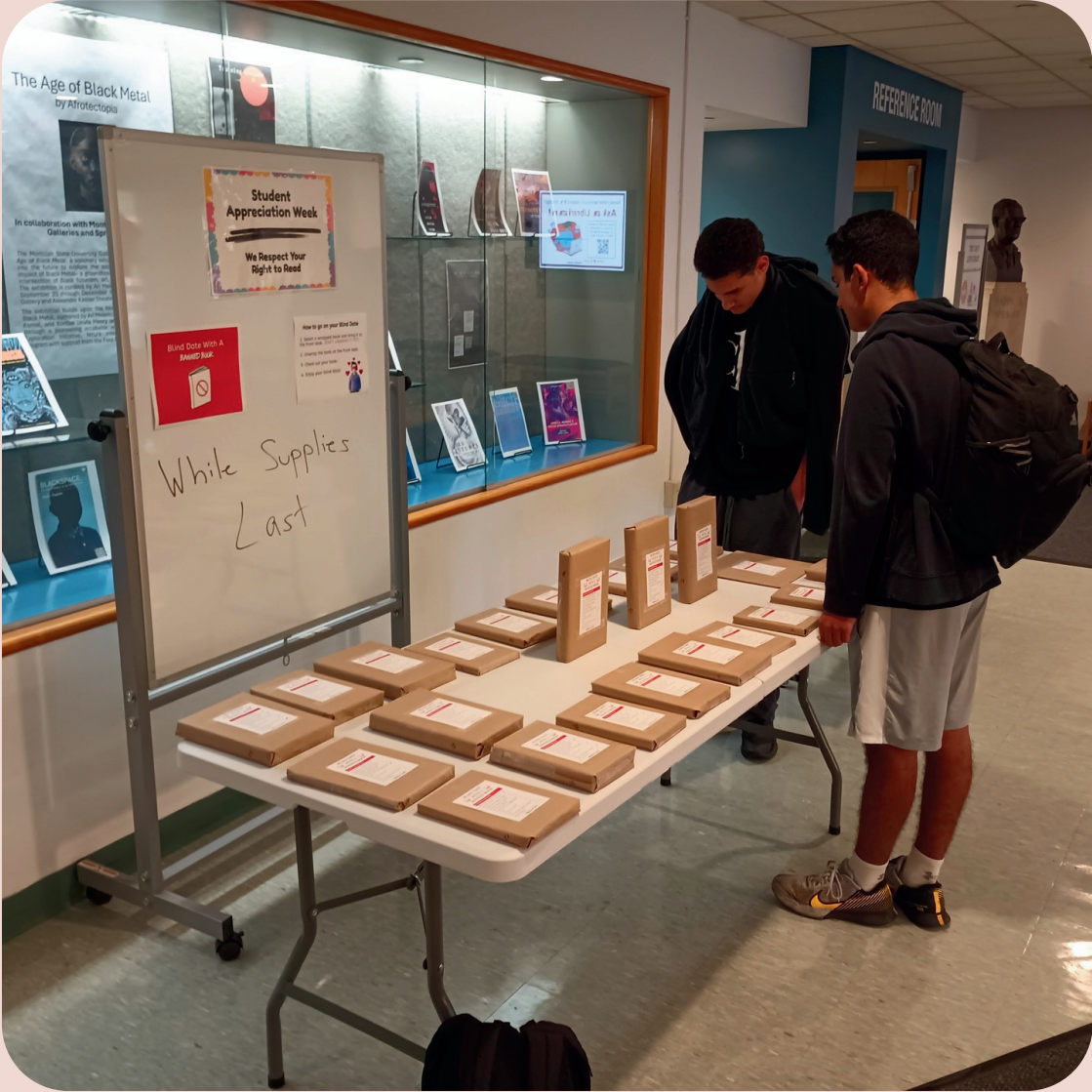
Step Three: Add the element of **MYSTERY AND SURPRISE** by wrapping the banned books and attaching the “report cards”. Students could not unwrap the book until they brought it to the desk to check it out.

Step Four: **LURE STUDENTS** to the library with candy and engaging social media content to have a blind date with a banned book.

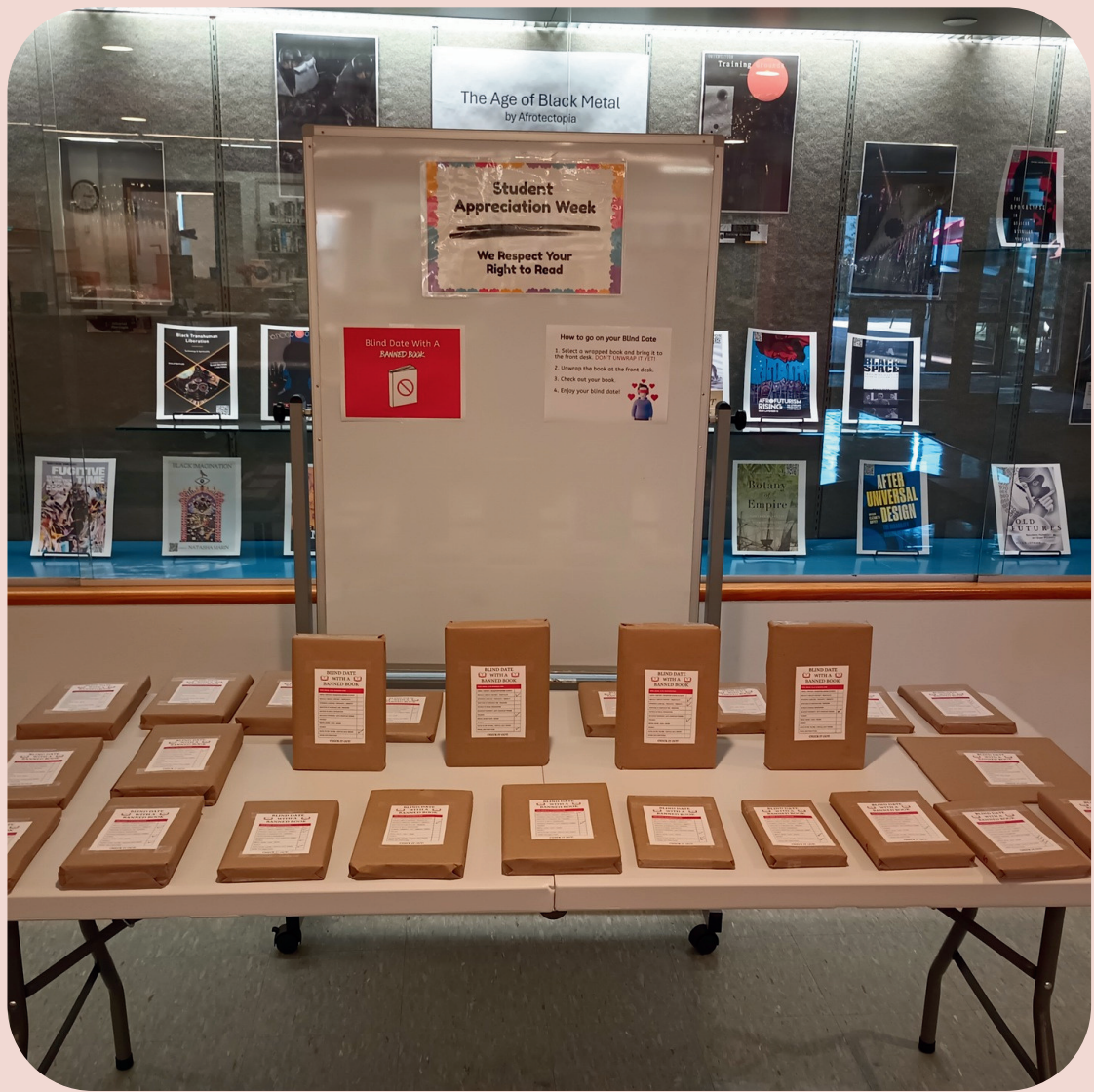


BLIND DATE WITH A BANNED BOOK

ENGAGEMENT



Eyewitnesses reported that students sparked conversation with each other on the identity of wrapped books and the reasons for banning them listed on the “report card”. Students demonstrated **CRITICAL THINKING & EVALUATIVE DISCOURSE.**



Anecdotal reports from access services staff informed the committee that many of the banned books were checked out by **FIRST-TIME BORROWERS.**



30 books were checked out on the first day, while the expected numbers were in the single digits. Due to strong engagement and despite time and resource constraints, 12 more books per day were pulled, wrapped, labeled, and added to the display.

84 BOOKS were checked out over the 1 week span.

OUTCOMES

LESSONS LEARNED

WE THINK STUDENTS WERE ENGAGED BECAUSE	
SILLINESS WORKS	✓
WHEN STUDENTS ARE PRESENTED WITH A MYSTERY, THEY WILL READ	✓
CANDY IS DELICIOUS	✓
STUDENTS WANT TO CRITICALLY ENGAGE IN CONTROVERSIAL TOPICS	✓
STUDENTS' RIGHT TO READ SHOULD BE CELEBRATED IN ENGAGING WAYS	✓
EFFECTIVE STUDENT ENGAGEMENT PROJECTS TAKE TIME AND RESOURCES	✓
WE CAN DO MORE WITH MORE (LOOKING AT YOU ADMIN)	✓

TRY IT OUT!

Other **ABSURD REASONS** to ban books were discovered:

- Inappropriate dessert references (we get hungry).
- Anthropomorphism is a gateway to rebellion.
- Bad vibes.
- Grammar crimes (#1 offender: No, Oxford, comma.)
- Unicorns are too political.
- Has math/is boring.
- Makes us think about our life choices - RUDE!

(The absurdity of this list proves that no book should be banned)

LEADING WITH LITERACY: HOW LIBRARIES CAN INSPIRE STUDENTS TO READ AGAIN

THIS POSTER SHOULD BE BANNED!