

CENSORSHIP & FAHRENHEIT 451

The speaker approaches the podium, prepared to give his speech. He has prepared his address for months. He takes a sip of water and clears his throat. He begins his speech, but something seems odd; no sound comes from him. His lips move in perfect synchronization with his silence. He gestures appropriately for his audience. His speech lasts for two hours ... two hours of silence. The speaker finishes his speech as the audience begins to applaud. The speaker steps down from the podium. Later he receives high praise for his enlightening speech. True, he didn't utter a single word, but he didn't offend a single person. The speaker has embraced censorship and spoken in a way that would please everyone. By not stating his views he avoided the risk of being branded racist, ageist, sexist, Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, anti-Semitic, socialist, fascist, republican, democratic, gay, homophobic, or individual. He has maintained a diverse following by pleasing everyone and because of this, the speaker now has total power over his adoring fans.

Imagine it, a world ruled by the amazing speaker, the one that pleases all. We should all follow his example and remain silent so as to please everyone else. Sure, we might not enjoy it, but at least everyone will like us. In fact, since we're giving up our free speech (for the better good of course), let's give up our religion (don't want to be branded anyway). While we're at it, why not just let the speaker decide what we should think, say, and do. The speaker should determine the words we read, the visuals we see, the activities we do. Soon enough we'll be letting the speaker decide what groups we should associate with and what material goods we should buy. Finally, we will become the speaker, or at least clones of him; first by emulating him in every way until modern science finds a way to create truly equal citizens through genetic engineering. Imagine it, a perfect utopia, all at the cost of individuality.

~ Anonymous 12th Grader

What is censorship?

What is this student saying about censorship?

Performances of understanding (due dates may change):

Censorship Research Paper -

Rough Draft is due Monday, November 29th and the Final Draft is due Friday, December 10th

Censorship Debate will be held Monday, December 6th and Tuesday, December 7th.

Other Papers/Tests:

Why was I censored? (RRP which explores why your IRB was banned)- Due Tuesday, November 23rd

Literary Term Take Home Quiz is due on Tuesday, November 30th

Vocabulary Quizzes will be held every Friday

Texts:

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury

Independent Reading Book (from ALA booklist of most challenged books)

Periodicals/journals on censorship

At one point these six cartoons were censored for racism, homosexuality, religion, and well, potty-humor. They were bound into an 88 page book called *Taboo*, marking a significant time in our history and struggle against censorship.

Try and see if you can guess why each cartoon was censored.

"Censorship reflects a society's lack of confidence in itself."

- Associate Justice of the U.S Supreme Court (1915-1985)

Unit Essential Questions:

- Who has the power to censor and why?
- What, if anything, should be censored?
- What would you censor if you were in charge of... the Internet? the library? the school?
- How can you make a difference in supporting your own beliefs about censorship?
- How do you react to censorship? Is it similar or different to a character in a novel that you have read in this unit?

"Censorship is advertising paid by the government."

- Federico Fellini—Italian Film director



"Let's go out and count phallic symbols"



"And as you'll probably notice, I wet my bed."



*"Why, it's Ann Stalkley!
I haven't seen you since we were in school together.
How in the world do you keep yourself looking so young?"*

“Media” by John Butler Trio

Directions: As we listen to “Media” think about
What are they trying to say about censorship? Who
they blaming?

What you watch, what you read
What you perceive is to be truth
It is all so subjective
So what you believe is up to you
But what are we to believe in
Between the lies and the truth? Youth
Media has vested interest
So what you believe is up to you.

But how are we to make sense of these turbulent times

When all they do is censor our minds
Only telling what they want us to know
Only half of the story told
So what is wrong? What is right?
No truth can there be seen

Well it's all there in your new religion
Just turn on your TV screen
Watch the sex and drugs and all that violence
Look what they are feeding you
Propaganda yes indeed its,
its all there to confuse

But how are we to make sense of these turbulent times

When all they do is brainwash our minds
Only telling what they want us to know
Only half of the story told

And if the truth can't be found
I'll find my own underground
And if the truth is never to be seen
I'll find my own in between

What you watch, what you read
What you perceive is to be truth
It is all so subjective
So what you believe is up to you



"Holy Moses!"



But what are we to believe in

Between the lies and the truth? Youth

Media has vested interest

So what you believe is up to you.

You know its up to you

Don't believe the lies, read between the lines,

Don't believe the lies, critically analyze