

Séance méthodologie Synthèse n°1

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- 1) What are the different reasons cited for pulling LGBTQ texts from the shelves?
- 2) What could be one word that would encompass most of these charges?
- 3) What can be said about the people lodging these complaints?

Doc 2

- 4) Who are the actors mentioned in the debate around school censorship?
- 5) What are the arguments of the opponents to CRT?
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- 9) Who are the targets?
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- 15) What are the actors mentioned in the debate on education censorship in the US?
- 16) What is happening in US universities and in the name of what?
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Séance méthodologie Synthèse n°1 – Eléments de réponses

Doc 1

1) What are the different reasons cited for pulling LGBTQ texts from the shelves?

Sexual content – inappropriate – pornographic – graphic – explicit – LGBT – Profane – Obscene are all words that can be used to denounce texts that are LGBTQ-related

2) What could be one word that would encompass most of these charges?

Obscenity is the excuse under which offers common ground between all these concepts and a rather vague word that can encompass a lot on subjective bases.

3) What can be said about the people lodging these complaints?

A majority of book challenges are filed by a minority of opponents. A large percentage of this historical wave of complaints come from a minuscule number of hyperactive adults.

Doc 2

4) Who are the actors mentioned in the debate around school censorship?

- Politicians like Donald Trump (then President)
- State policymakers
- All levels of education, from elementary school to university
- School boards
- Educators
- Local communities

5) What are the arguments of the opponents to CRT?

- CRT is discriminatory in its nature, creating categories between white oppressors and black victims
- Public funds should not be allocated to such discriminatory and hateful practices
- It is trying to make kids feel bad about who they are

6) What are the arguments of the proponents of CRT?

- Teaching CRT promotes inclusion and equity among racial groups
- Censoring discussions on racism and its history stifles the voices of minorities today
- Preventing discussion in the classroom undermines critical thinking

7) What do the tensions around the regulation of curriculum within the US public school system reveal about the state of society?

It is a contentious issue that has the country deeply divided, leading to demonstrations in many States and making it an inherently political matter.

Doc. 3

8) Who are the actors mentioned in the debate on book banning in US public schools?

- Political figures (ex: Barack Obama)
- Parent-led groups like Moms for Liberty

9) Who are the targets?

LGBT community / people of color... > minority authors and minority-themed books

10) How has book censorship evolved in the recent years?

It has become more organized. It is a wave of attacks led by conservative activist groups that act on the grounds of fighting what they consider to be "harmful agendas". They organize banning campaigns and are very well-organized, to the point of being heard by politicians.

11) How far reaching is the debate on book bans in US schools?

- It is an attack on the Constitutional right to think (read) and speak
- It touches American History
- It impacts other countries that look up to the US and develop similar censoring policies

12) How is the book banning movement opposed and by whom?

- Powerful public figures voice their concerns
- Organizations like the ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom

Doc. 4

13) Why are "black" and "history" crossed? Explain the message.

Black is crossed because the banning of CRT in school curricula prevents educators from talking about race. It is seen as an attack on history as the teaching of a whole part of US history, related to slavery and segregation, are erased from the classroom.

14) How are censorship and Black History Month at cross-purposes in US schools?

This movement to censor any form of race-related speech at school goes against the very purpose of Black History Month which is meant to raise awareness, at school included, about racism in today's society through awareness campaign, specific lessons...

Doc.5

15) What are the actors mentioned in the debate on education censorship in the US?

- Outraged students
- Faculty leadership

16) What is happening in US universities and in the name of what?

Today, anything that can be seen as a form of traumatic content, is subject to attempts of censorship, in the name of protecting student 'sensitivities' and any content that could harm them. But the contours of what can be hurtful or harmful are vague. It is fueled by online campaigns dictating university policy and it scares professors who fear being fired.

17) What is said about academic freedom?

This movement goes against academic freedom and threatens the very core of free speech, which are fundamental values of the US education system.

18) How does a growing number of universities oppose this movement?

A growing number of faculties, be they public or private like Harvard, take the opposing view and challenge this wave of censorship by embracing controversy and developing councils to protect academic freedom.