

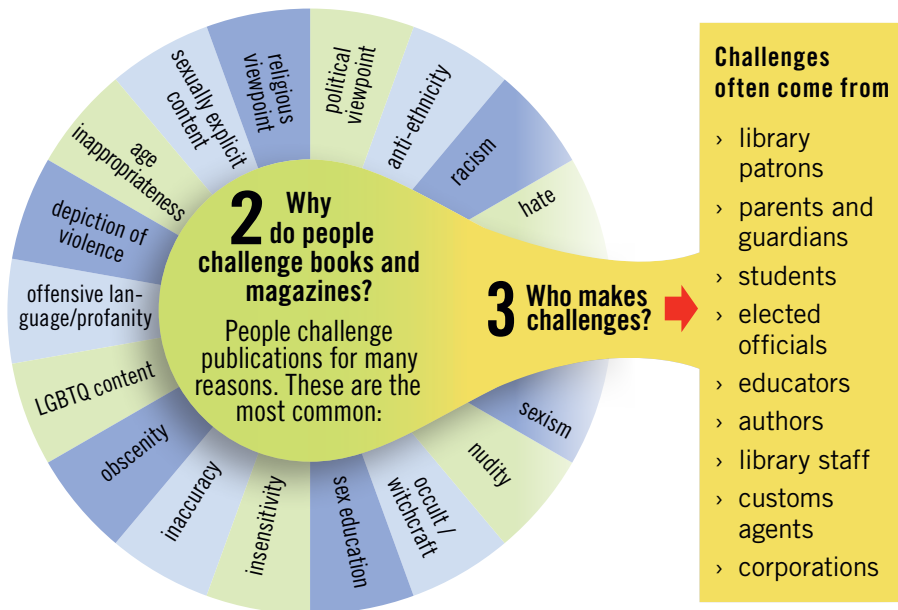
# UNDERSTANDING CHALLENGES TO BOOKS AND MAGAZINES

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**FREEDOM TO READ WEEK (FEBRUARY 25 TO MARCH 3, 2018) ENCOURAGES** Canadians to think about and reaffirm their commitment to intellectual freedom, which is guaranteed by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Every year, schools and libraries receive challenges to reading materials. Learn more about this issue with our quick guide.

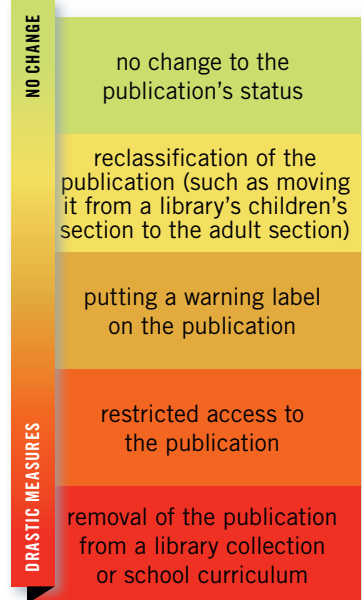
## 1 What is a challenge?

A challenge is an attempt to censor, remove or restrict access to a publication so that people can't get it at all or can't get it easily. Publications are challenged in schools, libraries and courts and at borders between countries.



## 5 What happens when a book or magazine is challenged?

### A CHALLENGE COULD RESULT IN



## 4 When is a challenge justified?

A challenge could be justified when

- a publication includes many spelling mistakes or significant grammatical errors.
- the library staff overlook the characteristics of a publication. Sometimes, when deciding a publication's classification and shelf location, the staff don't notice the publisher's recommended age level, or the publisher has misjudged the publication's age appropriateness. This sometimes happens with DVDs.
- the publication is plagiarized. An example is a book that is a compilation of Wikipedia articles.
- the publication is hazardous. For example, an author claiming to be a health expert has lied about his or her expertise or credentials, and the book poses a health danger to readers.
- the publication advocates sexual activity with a minor, or its dominant characteristic is the description for a sexual purpose of sexual activity with a minor.

## 6 Why should we defend challenged materials?

Defending the freedom to read doesn't mean you support sexism, racism, hatred, etc. Instead, you support people's right to choose what they want to read and to make up their minds about the content. Banning or hiding controversial materials from the public interferes with intellectual freedom, which is an essential part of a democratic society.



## 7 What can I do?

Get involved! Visit [freedomtoread.ca](http://freedomtoread.ca) to learn more about intellectual freedom in Canada. Call out censorship when you see it. Attend a Freedom to Read Week event or organize your own. Follow the Book and Periodical Council on Facebook and Twitter [@Freedom\\_to\\_Read](https://twitter.com/Freedom_to_Read) to stay informed. 📖