



Michigan Council of Teachers of English

Statement on Censorship

BACKGROUND: Each year we experience an increased number of challenges to instructional materials and practices. Extremist groups appear to have targeted the state of Michigan as a testing ground for repressive measures. In the past year, 1988, there have been more censorship attempts in Michigan than in any other state. The actions of special interest groups pose an ever-present threat to the rights of instructors to teach and to the rights of students to learn.

RESOLVED THAT the Michigan Council of Teachers of English supports the free, uncensored exchange of ideas guaranteed by the United States Constitution;

THAT the Michigan Council of Teachers of English reaffirms, in the face of increasing censorship, the belief that teachers, as professionals, have the right and the responsibility to select a variety of reading materials, media, and classroom practices to facilitate student learning; and

THAT the Michigan Council of Teachers of English urges that teachers and administrators be encouraged to develop well-articulated policies which include selection criteria, well-articulated rationales for selection and a workable challenge policy, for using instructional materials and practices in their classrooms.