

# How to Raise Kids Who Ask Questions

## *In a State That Banned the Answers*

They banned the books. They rewrote the curriculum. They told your child's teacher what words are allowed in the classroom. They cannot, however, control what happens at your kitchen table.

This guide is for parents who want to raise children who think critically, question authority, and love learning — in a state that has made that harder. None of this requires defying any law. All of it is entirely legal. It just requires your time and intentionality.

### Build a Home Library of Banned Books

- Many of the books removed from Florida schools are available at public libraries, bookstores, and Amazon. Buy them. Read them with your kids.
- Talk about WHY they were banned. That conversation is more educational than the book itself.
- Your home library is not subject to HB 1069. What your child reads at home is your decision, period.

### Practice the Art of the Question

- 'What do you think?' — Ask this after everything: news stories, movies, things they learned at school.
- 'How do you know that?' — Teach your child to trace claims back to their source.
- 'Who benefits from this being true?' — The most important critical thinking question there is.
- 'What's the other side of this argument?' — Even for positions you hold, model intellectual fairness.

### Use the News

- Find one news story per week to discuss at dinner. Use kid-appropriate sources like Newsela or Time for Kids for younger children.
- Watch the same event covered by two different news outlets and discuss the differences.
- When your child hears something at school that doesn't sound right, look it up together.

### Know Their Curriculum — and Fill the Gaps

- Florida's 'Individual Freedom Act' restricts how race and history are taught. Ask your child what they're learning — then supplement.
- The 1619 Project, Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You, and other works on American history provide perspectives the Florida curriculum now suppresses.
- LGBTQ+ history, women's history, and the history of labor movements have been systematically reduced. There are excellent books on all of these for every age.

## Model Civic Engagement

- Bring your child to a school board meeting. Let them see democracy in action — and its failures.
- Explain your vote. Not just who you voted for, but why.
- If you contact an elected official, do it with your child present and explain what you're doing.
- Volunteer together for a cause. Service teaches more than any textbook.

***A child who asks 'why' is harder to manipulate than a child who accepts 'because I said so.' Raise the kid who asks why.***