



How to Fill Out a Book Objection Form in Florida: A Step-by-Step Example

Filing an official book objection is a critical step in holding schools accountable and protecting children from inappropriate content. This resource offers a clear, visual walkthrough of how to complete a material objection form, using a sample submission for reference. You will also see annotated screenshots and helpful tips to ensure your form is filled out effectively and professionally.

This step-by-step guide uses a version of the “[Specific Material Objection Template](#)”—a general form provided by the Florida Department of Education per [Rule 6A-7.0714](#) of the Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), and commonly used as a model by many districts that do not have their own district-specific form. We have intentionally based this example on that widely used version to provide the most broadly applicable guidance possible.

While each Florida school district may use a slightly different process—some may link to a standard PDF, others to a Google Form or digital portal—the principles and examples in this guide can be applied across counties. Use this resource as a reference to strengthen your submission and speak with clarity and conviction when challenging harmful materials in your school’s library.

Note: The sample objection provided here is just one example, based on a particular book. It does not mean that every challenged title will meet the same legal threshold.¹ Your responses should reflect the specific content and context of the material you are challenging.

1. Part 1

- Typically prompts you to complete and submit the form in person to the school’s principal, along with a valid ID that indicates you are a resident of the county in question.
- Acknowledges that the template must be modified by school districts, with information and directions based upon policies adopted by the school board to handle objections.

¹**DISCLAIMER:** This resource is intended for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. The information contained herein should not be relied upon as a substitute for legal counsel.

- States that the information must be easily understandable, include information about, and directions for, the district's process for submission, review and disposition of an objection.
- Typically requires that the information provided must include any resolution procedures required before consideration by the school board, such as school-level review requirements. This information must also include district contact and submittal information for objections (this is also why it is important to check your district school board policy before proceeding to submit an objection).

2. Part 2

- Recognizes that the form be used by a parent or resident of the county, in conjunction with district policies and procedures, to submit an objection to the school board for the following material:
 - Materials used in a classroom in the district, except for instructional materials as defined in [s. 1006.29\(2\), F.S.](#)
 - **Note:** This is usually accompanied by a district-specific link featuring the processes and forms relevant to making objections.
 - Materials made available to students in a school or classroom library.
 - Materials included on a school or classroom reading list.
 - Instructional materials adopted and made available to students without the opportunity for public notice, review and hearing procedures by districts that implement their own instructional materials program under [Section 1006.283, F.S.](#) Per the standardized form, districts that do not implement their own instructional materials program under s. 1006.283, F.S., must remove this item.

3. Part 2: Sections

- Section I: Parent or Resident Information
 - Typically asks if the parent or guardian of a district or homeschool student has access to school district materials described in Part II of this form.
 - Asks if the parent or guardian is a resident of the county.
 - Asks if the parent or guardian has not submitted an objection to any other materials described in Part II of this form during the calendar month.

- Example:

Section 1: Parent or Resident Information

Check the box that applies to you. Check all that apply.

☐ Parent/guardian of a student ☒ Resident of this county

First Name John Last Name Doe

Address PO Box 100

City Mulberry State FL Zip Code 33860

County Polk Email jdoe@email.com

Phone Number (111)-111-111

Specific Material Objection Template
Incorporated in Rule 6A-7.0714, F.A.C.
Effective November 2023

- Section 2: Information Regarding Material

Typically asks about the following:

- Type of material [book, non-print material, other]
- Title of the material
- Author
- Publisher or Producer
- Copyright date
- Grade level used
- Where the material is found [media center, classroom library, reading list, other]
- ISBN, if available
- Example:

Section 2: Information Regarding Material

Type of material: ☒ Book ☐ Non-print material ☐ Other (identify): _____

Title of the material: Adjustment Day

Author(s): Chuck Palahniuk Publisher or Producer: New York : W.W. Norton & Co.

Copyright Date: 2018 Grade Level used: 9-12

Where is the material found: ☒ Media Center ☐ Classroom Library ☐ Reading List ☐ Other: _____

School(s) where material is found: Davenport HS

ISBN, if available: 9780393652598

- Section 3: Basis for the Objection

Typically asks you to identify the basis of the objection from the following options:

- That the material is pornographic
- That the material is prohibited under [847.012, F.S.](#) (Florida's obscenity statute)
- That the material depicts or describes sexual conduct as defined in [Section 847.001\(19\)](#) (Florida's definition of sexual conduct)
- That the material is not suited to student needs and their ability to comprehend the material
- That the material is inappropriate for the grade level and age group for which it is used
- Example [note that multiple boxes, in this instance, are checked off]:

Section 3: Basis for the Objection

Identify the basis for your objection:

- ☒ The material is pornographic.
- ☒ The material is prohibited under Section 847.012, F.S.
- ☒ The material depicts or describes sexual conduct as defined in Section 847.001(19), F.S.
- ☒ The material is not suited to student needs and their ability to comprehend the material.
- ☒ The material is inappropriate for the grade level and age group for which it is used.

- Section 4: Objection-Specific Information

Questions asked include the following, accompanied by examples:

- What brought this material to your attention?

Example:

1. What brought this material to your attention?

I do not believe this material holds educational, literary, artistic, or political value for minors.

The content includes descriptions or depictions that may fall

within the categories of sexually explicit material described in F.S. 847.012 and F.S. 1006.28(2)(

- **Note:** For this section, we recommend citing the following two statutes to support the objection you are making:

- [Florida Statutes, Section 847.012 – Prohibited materials harmful to minors](#): This statute prohibits the knowing sale or distribution of obscene or sexually explicit materials harmful to minors. It includes criminal penalties and serves as a key standard for evaluating what content may be inappropriate for children in educational settings.
- [Florida Statutes, Section 1006.28\(2\)\(b\) – Oversight of School Library Materials](#): This provision requires school districts to ensure that materials available in classrooms and libraries are *not* pornographic, do not depict or describe sexual conduct (as defined above), and are age-appropriate and suitable for student comprehension. This establishes the expectation that school library content should reflect community standards and educational relevance.

- Was the material examined in its entirety (and, if not, which sections were examined)?

Example:

Did you examine this material in its entirety? ☐ Yes ☒ No

- **Note:** When filling out this section, you should indicate whether you reviewed the entire material or only specific portions (such as chapters, pages, or sections). **It is not required that you read or review the material in its entirety in order to submit an objection.** Even a partial review may be sufficient to identify material that raises concerns.²
- During the October 2023 Florida State Board of Education meeting, Chancellor Burns clarified that this question is included on the objection form purely for informational purposes to assist districts in processing objections.³ **Parents and residents are therefore not required to examine the material in its entirety in order to file an objection.** You may recognize this directly, as in the example provided below:

Example:

If not, what sections did you examine?

See Attached, Not required to per guidance from FDOE's Chancellor Burns.

Content found to be in violation of F.S. 847.012 or 1006.28 (2)(b) must be removed by state law.

²For more, see [The Florida Channel \(2023\). 10/18/23 State Board of Education Meeting, Timestamp: 2:52:00-2:52:53.](#)

³See above.

- What portion of the material is being objected to and why. It also requires you to be specific and provide page numbers, sections, or timestamps, as appropriate, that can be attached as additional information that does not fit within the form.
 - **Note:** Here, we would encourage you to attach the book report explaining why the title is problematic. These book reports are provided in a folder available in our resource, "[Books to Watch Out For: Harmful Titles Found in Florida School Libraries.](#)"

Example:

3. Identify the portion of the material objected to and why. *(You must be specific and provide page numbers, sections, or timestamps, as appropriate. You may attach additional information that does not fit within this form.)*

See Attached

- Is there any age for which the material could be recommended? (and to specify, if so)

Example:

Is there any age or grade you would recommend this material? ☐ Yes ☒ No

- Is there any value to the material?

Note:

- When responding to the question regarding whether the material has any value to minors, we recommend carefully considering the nature of the content described. Florida Statutes ([F.S. 847.012](#) and [F.S. 1006.28\(2\)\(b\)](#)) establish legal standards that prohibit the distribution of obscene or sexually explicit materials to minors.
- While we are not providing legal advice or making legal determinations, if the content of the book includes material that may fall within the descriptions prohibited under these statutes (such as sexually explicit depictions, detailed descriptions of sexual activity, or other harmful content), it would be reasonable to state that the material does not have educational, literary, artistic, or political value for minors.
- Therefore, we recommend stating that material containing descriptions or depictions that fall within the categories of sexually explicit content described in [F.S. 847.012](#) and [F.S. 1006.28\(2\)\(b\)](#) is

not appropriate or beneficial for minors and lacks educational, literary, artistic, or political value for that age group. Citing these statutes helps to support your objection and the basis for removal.

- You may also consider referencing the potential legal consequences outlined in state law, such as the third-degree felony penalty under F.S. 847.012, to emphasize the seriousness of exposing minors to such material.

Example:

Is there any value in this material?

I do not believe this material holds educational, literary, artistic, or political value for minors.

It includes descriptions or depictions that may be considered sexually explicit.

For more, see F.S. 847.012 and F.S. 1006.28(2)(b).

- What is your desired outcome for the material [to remove/discontinue use of the material, to limit access to certain grade levels, to limit your child's access, and other]?

Example:

What is your desired outcome for this material?

☒ Remove or discontinue use of material.

☐ Limit access to certain grade levels: _____

☐ Limit my child's access.

☐ Other: _____