

## Banned Books Seminar Liisa's Personal Reflection

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I joined the Banned Books Seminar group as I think censorship and banning books is an always important discussion and it's an area I have been interested in for years. I have also done workshops and run seminar-like activities before in a Youth Organization so I was familiar with structures and ideas that could be used.

I was interested in the seminar itself so I was happy to be in the Seminar Team. However, the other aspects were interesting too. I enjoyed the information brought out by the Research team, which prompted the discussion of where this seminar is most needed. The information from the Co-Creation team was interesting as it did not confirm my expectations.

What I gained was more knowledge on censorship and tools for explaining censorship and its effects. I understood better how librarians interact with censorship and how it is more similar to the general public than I thought.

I also gained a better understanding of how to create a seminar that engages the audience and that having easy to carry props can help in engaging the audience. I understood that you need to know what the goal of the seminar is. Ours was focused on creating discussions between librarians rather than giving information so we needed to focus on engaging methods to create discussions. I think we managed to do that well from the Romanian seminar and the comments they made at the end.

What could have been done differently was the surveys. Surveys need to have time limits so that people answer in your timeframe and that there will likely be little information given in the surveys. This means that when there is a part that relies on the survey information, there needs to be a backup plan.

I would say that a negative part was the lack of proper responses from the surveys as we had little to go off of as the seminar team. However, I think we figured it out and managed to figure out how to engage, teach and discuss the topic with the librarians.

What really helped was the in person session with Joe where we discussed the "skeleton seminar". During the session, we really got a good skeleton ready, which was successful. Discussing with Joe in person meant that we could mold the seminar to his style and share

what we wanted to have in the seminar more clearly than if we were online. The marketing team also gained information and content ideas from the session.

The information sharing between groups was limited to in person sessions. There was access to the other groups timelines through the Drive folder however none of the groups added their work into the Drive folder. So what could be done next time would be more in person sessions because those were where we got the most progress.

For me, I did struggle with time management as I would do the work a day before or on the day of the deadline. This created stress for me, my groupmate and Joe. It is an issue that I have tried to manage through different methods and some have helped but overall still struggle with that aspect. The helpful thing with the seminar group was that we had a specific timeframe for when we had to submit the seminar and our work had a few weeks where we had to focus heavily and not overall focus through the whole semester. Joe having a session with each group separately about their timeline was also helpful as it gave me an understanding of what dates I had to focus on and gave me an idea of how to structure my time between those dates.

Mainly Kristlin did the overall structure and started the work and then I mainly edited and added making it more thorough. I do think this worked out for me as I struggle with getting something started but I could focus on going deeper and finding ways to modify the existing foundation. I do think the work was largely equal however I should have been better at responding and editing before the last minute.