

Student Research and Creative Inquiry Forum
April 17, 2019
College of Fine Arts and Communication

Poster #132

Title: A Modern Battleground: Censorship and Ellen Glasgow's "The Battle-Ground"

Student: Ashley Murphy

Faculty mentor: Dr. George Hahn (English)

Abstract: Nationwide disputes surrounding symbols of the Confederacy have sparked debates on constitutional rights and the concept of censorship. The question is: Is disagreeing with or being offended by a work, concept, or fact a reasonable reason for banning or censoring it? Both history and novels are controlled in the sense that they can be censored. The winner writes history, leaving out unflattering details, as novels can be censored for containing controversial content. I compare educational censorship in the form of novels, to historical censorship in the case of the American Civil War, using the common ground of Ellen Glasgow's *The Battle-Ground*, a piece of historical fiction, in order to connect a historic debate to educational values. I consider various novels that have been banned, censored, or destroyed throughout history due to their content to make connections on common themes that are generally abhorred in order to discuss the social implications of concealing or eliminating certain topics. This paper explores the effects of the overuse of censorship in educational institutions in relation to academic progress and social learning by considering what constitutes censoring a novel, who has the right to do so, and what the act teaches children.