**Censorship**

*“*[*The only valid censorship of ideas is the right of people not to listen.*](http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/t/tommysmoth381916.html)*”*

*-* [*Tommy Smothers*](http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/t/tommy_smothers.html)

*"You have not converted a man because you have silenced him."*

*- Ben Shahn*

1. **What is Censorship?**

* The act of changing or suppressing speech or writing that is considered subversive of the common good
* The control of the information and ideas circulated within a society
* Official prohibition or restriction of any type of expression believed to threaten the political, social, or moral order.

1. **Forms of censorship**

* Government Censorship (Political)
* Self-Censorship (Individual)
* Religious Censorship
* Film Censorship
* Military Censorship
* Internet Censorship
* Educational Censorship
* Forms of Censorship in Singapore:
* ‘Out of bounds’ (OB) markers
* Board of Film Censors
* Cinematograph Films Act
* Censorship Review Committee
* Media Development Authority

1. **What is censored?**

* Films (Movies, TV programs)
* Speech
* News
* Written texts like Journals, Books
* Radio broadcast
* Internet websites
* Posters
* Photographs

1. **Who censors?**

* Political Institutions – Government
* The Press
* Religious Institutions
* Lobbying groups
* Individuals – news readers, audiences, musicians, writers, journalists

1. **Reasons for Censorship / Why Censorship is needed? (Benefits of censorship)**

* To prevent economic exploitation by profiteering firms
* To uphold moral norms and values
* To prevent illicit and irresponsible comments on religious matters that undermines social stability
* To protect vulnerable online users from social predators
* To ensure that sensitive issues on national interests are not leaked to potential aggressors
* To prevent negative influences from shaping political ideology of the nation

1. **Reasons against Censorship / Why Censorship is not needed? (Detriments of censorship)**

* Conflicts with the freedom of speech

* Give rise to standardization and conformity of individuals to the society
* Give rise of authoritarian institutions/Strengthens the authoritative powers of political institutions
* Compromising the quality of journalism