



Fight Club #1

Fight Club

Chuck Palahniuk

★★★★☆ 4.18

643,193 ratings · 26,729 reviews

Chuck Palahniuk showed himself to be his generation's most visionary satirist in this, his first book. *Fight Club's* estranged narrator leaves his lackluster job when he comes under the thrall of Tyler Durden, an enigmatic young man who holds secret after-hours boxing matches in the basement of bars. There, two men fight "as long as they have to." This is a gloriously original work that exposes the darkness at the core of our modern world.

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224 pages, Paperback

First published August 17, 1996

Book details & editions

Request For Review

Date of Request: 9/29/2025

Did the Requestor examine the entire material? No

Material that was challenged:

Please see the Appendix for Additional Submission Material. All excerpts have been verified.

Plausibility Review

Date of Plausibility Review: 10/2/2025

Decision: The committee determined the claim was plausible by a vote of 3-0. Librarians were instructed to remove the materials from student access on 10/10/2025

Objective Review

Narrative: Objective Review committee members were emailed all information on 10/10/2025 and asked to make their final determination by 10/30/2025. An optional meeting was held on 10/27/2025 to answer any questions or discuss concerns about this and other titles. A vote of 4 out of 7 was cast in favor of retaining the material.

Date of Objective Materials Review Vote: 11/4/2025

Vote Results : 4 out of 7 to Retain

Based on the content that I read, I vote to:

Committee Member #1	Retain
Committee Member #2	Retain
Committee Member #3	Remove
Committee Member #4	Retain
Committee Member #5	Remove
Committee Member #6	Remove
Committee Member #7	Retain

I justify this decision based on:

Committee Member #1	It used the word "erection", but it did not describe it.
Committee Member #2	Does not meet the criteria
Committee Member #3	Explicit violation of part a.
Committee Member #4	The material does not contain anything in violation of 76-10-1227.
Committee Member #5	Quoted directly " a lunging red penis or a yawning wet vagina."
Committee Member #6	The material contains language that is sensitive.
Committee Member #7	While I find it inappropriate for youth, I don't think it breaks the law

Subjective Review

Narrative: Subjective Review committee members were emailed all information on 11/5/2025. A meeting was held on 12/3/2025 and all votes were in by 12/8/2025. A vote of 7 out of 7 was cast in favor of removing the material based on subjective sensitive materials.

Date of Subjective Materials Review Vote: 12/8/2025

Vote Results : 7 out of 7 to Remove

Question 1: Does the material have serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value?

Committee Member #1	No
Committee Member #2	No
Committee Member #3	No
Committee Member #4	No
Committee Member #5	No
Committee Member #6	No
Committee Member #7	No

Question 2: Does the material contain any material defined as harmful to minors?

Committee Member #1	Yes
Committee Member #2	Yes
Committee Member #3	Yes
Committee Member #4	Yes
Committee Member #5	Yes
Committee Member #6	Yes
Committee Member #7	Yes

Question 3: Does the material contain any material defined as pornographic?

Committee Member #1	No
Committee Member #2	Yes
Committee Member #3	No
Committee Member #4	No
Committee Member #5	No
Committee Member #6	Yes
Committee Member #7	No

Question 4: Does the material contain any material described in sub-section (iv) in Section 76-10-12:

Committee Member #1	No
Committee Member #2	Yes
Committee Member #3	No
Committee Member #4	No
Committee Member #5	No
Committee Member #6	Yes
Committee Member #7	Yes

Question 5: Based on all the information, should the book be retained or removed?

Committee Member #1	Removed
Committee Member #2	Removed
Committee Member #3	Removed
Committee Member #4	Removed
Committee Member #5	Removed
Committee Member #6	Removed
Committee Member #7	Removed

I justify this decision based on:

Committee Member #1	There were some sections of the book that weren't described enough in detail to be considered against the law, however, the violence and overall attitude towards violence is something that is concerning to expose teenagers to. There also isn't much redeeming qualities in the characters and I feel that teenagers aren't quite mature enough to handle the content of the book.
Committee Member #2	The content in this book are adult in nature with adult characters. This book was not meant for minors and I did not feel that it had value for being in a school library.
Committee Member #3	The level of violence contained in the book is too mature for minor audiences. The characters are all adult characters. There are descriptions of castration, intense beatings, encouraging fighting and vandalism, etc.
Committee Member #4	I don't believe this has value for minors. I can see lessons that can be taken for adults, but they are nuanced and behind a veil of violence that is glorified.
Committee Member #5	The target audience for this book seems to be adults. The characters are adults and the content is mature. There is a descriptive mutilation scene and explicit instructions on how to make bombs. There doesn't seem to be positive "serious value" having this book for students so I recommend it is removed from school libraries.
Committee Member #6	Sexual content Graphic content: Contains violence, self-harm, and mature themes that may be considered inappropriate for younger students. Potential for misinterpretation: Satire and commentary on masculinity, chaos, and rebellion can be misread as endorsement Mental health concerns: Depictions of dissociation and psychological instability may be sensitive or triggering for some students.
Committee Member #7	This book is not appropriate for minors due to the sexual content and violent nature. Although this book would appeal to older adults, students with under developed brains might take the topics of this book too far and try to repeat things expressed in this book.

Appeal Request

Date of Appeal Request: 1/13/2026

Rationale:

The committee itself determined the book's sensitive material cannot justify its removal from school libraries. Its initial determination was "removal" only because the committee believed its literary value did not outweigh its "sensitive material." Utah HB-29 and DSD policy clearly state that a book's perceived literary value can only be used to justify retaining a book with sensitive material, not to justify its removal. If books are to be banned, it should be for their obscenity, not the committee's opinion on their literary value. Additionally, many people (including myself) have found great literary value in the book's unique voice, social criticisms of consumerism and modern masculinity, and its exploration around themes of identity and alienation.

Public Comments

As of 1/5/2026 there were no public comments for this title.

Appeal

Appeal Date:

Date of Formal Board Vote:

Vote Tally

Appeal Committee Decision and Rationale: