

Personal Essay

You can't shut me up!

What's the point of writing a story when, no matter what, it's guaranteed to upset somebody? This is what I sometimes think of when working on this intriguing story that I wish to share with as many people as possible. Sometimes, I fear adding more risqué elements into my story because a censorship board will likely take it the wrong way and force me to bow down and scale back the scene or remove it entirely.

Over the summer, I have been reading Simon Miraudo's *Book of the Banned*, which is about Australia's history with film censorship. Most of the chapters in the book deal with films having to edit out certain curse words or cutting down explicit sexual references, all so the film can be shown in cinemas and not receive an R rating or be refused classification (RC). When a film is RC, it's a complicated process not just to review your film but also to convince a board that has already deemed your film guilty based on some water cooler conversations prior to the review. The book has been an eye-opener in my views on this subject, as it upsets me that these films have to be edited to appease a majority audience, and there is no way to see the full experience of a filmmaker's intention.