

Dear NAME,

On September 21, 2024, you participated in a demonstration in Widener Library. Participants assembled with the stated purpose of making their presence known by occupying the Loker Reading Room and displaying flyers provided by the event organizers.

Demonstrations and protests are not permitted in libraries. (See guidance on University-wide Statement on Rights and Responsibilities: <https://provost.harvard.edu/statement-interim-president-deans-harvard-university-rights-and-responsibilities>). Demonstrators entering the library on September 21 were given a handout stating this rule. In addition, library employees informed you that you were in violation of this rule as you were seated in the Loker Reading Room with a laptop bearing one of the demonstration's flyers.

Library users are expected to respect rules and regulations around the use of the library and to respect and follow the instructions of library employees. (See Harvard Library Patron Agreement: https://guides.library.harvard.edu/HL_patron_agreement). Violation of these rules may result in possible revocation of library privileges and/or disciplinary action. This was clearly stated on the handout provided by library employees.

Given your violation of these rules, Widener Library Administration has determined that your access to Widener Library will be suspended from today until October 16. You will continue to have borrowing privileges and can request pick-up at other library locations, and your online access to library resources and services will not be affected.

We see libraries as a vital resource for all students and would like to offer you a conversation on how we think about our spaces, from your perspective and ours. If you are interested in this opportunity, please email HL_Administration@harvard.edu.

If you believe this communication has been sent to you in error, and you therefore would like to seek reconsideration, you may do so by writing to Martha Whitehead, Vice President for the Harvard Library and University Librarian and Roy E. Larsen Librarian for the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, at HL_Administration@harvard.edu, no later than October 5, setting forth the grounds for any reconsideration and any evidence you would like to be considered. In addition, please contact Martha Whitehead if this suspension bars you from completing your academic work for a class.

A record of this violation will be retained by the library and reviewed in the event of future infractions. Your School has been informed of this violation.

This Widener Library suspension is not intended to supplant any potential discipline by your School for violations of the University Statement on Rights and Responsibilities or other Harvard policies.

Sincerely,
Widener Library Administration