Overview: Every single event that occurs is open to interpretation. No two people see something in the same way. Each person's prior experiences, values, beliefs, and biases shape how he/she views something. Knowing that everything is a matter of perspective, it is important for people to gather as much information as possible in order to make an informed interpretation of the world.

Connection to *Fahrenheit 451*:
- Censorship is the suppression or prohibition of any parts of books, film, news, ect... that are considered to be obscene, politically unacceptable, or a threat to security. In *Fahrenheit 451* the government has taken control of all entertainment and is the sole distributor of content people see. Thus, the government is censoring what the people are able to see.
- "If there is only one story, who controls the story?" Since the government has taken over all entertainment, there is only one "story" being told. Therefore, all people are led to believe what they are told is the only truth. There is no room for dissent or disagreement.

Overview: Below are two news articles. While the articles cover the same issue, the "story" being told in each article is very different. As you read the two articles, look for little differences in the articles which tell a different "story."

Directions: Complete the following during this activity:
- Read and annotate the articles
- Complete the questions below
- Participate (both as a listener and speaker) in a discussion on the topics of censorship and "telling a story"

Article 1 *Fate of 'Phase Three' coronavirus stimulus package uncertain after Senate fails to move forward amid Dem opposition*

"We need Congressional action by Monday," warned one Republican administration source late last week to Fox.

"Monday" was supposed to be the deadline for the Senate to act on the third legislative phase of the coronavirus response. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., set up a process late last week where the Senate would take a procedural vote Sunday to begin debate on a "shell" of a bill.

Once there was a deal, McConnell would insert the coronavirus package into the parliamentary empty box. The hope was that the Senate could get 60 "yeas" to open debate on the coronavirus measure Sunday – then speed up the process and pass the bill Monday. Then the House would have to move to align with the Senate

sometime in the near future.

That all melted down Sunday night when the GOP-controlled Senate failed to move forward with considering the 1.4 trillion "Phase Three" stimulus package intended to help businesses and families devastated by the downturn over the coronavirus outbreak.

McConnell excoriated Senate Democrats and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., for blocking the shell bill Sunday. Pelosi and the House had just returned from a weeklong recess. She had urged colleagues to "take responsibility" as Democrats prepared their own draft. Many Democrats had complained that the draft aid package did not go far enough to provide health care and unemployment aid for Americans, and failed to put restraints on a proposed $500 billion "slush fund" for corporations, saying the ban on corporate stock buy-backs are weak and the limits on executive pay would last only two years.

McConnell accused Democrats of backing out of a bipartisan agreement once Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., intervened. He claimed Pelosi "poured cold water on the whole process" and overstepped her boundaries, saying: "She's the speaker of the House, not the speaker of the Senate."He also said the Senate would re-vote on the motion to proceed with consideration of the bill Monday morning, "15 minutes after the markets open to see if there's a change of heart."

We'll see if things move on Monday

Article 2 *Senate fails to advance coronavirus stimulus package*

The Senate on Sunday failed to clear a key procedural hurdle on a $1.6 trillion emergency rescue package, raising pressure on both parties to try again to reach a deal to address the economic devastation of the coronavirus outbreak.

On a 47-47 vote, the measure fell well short, after Democrats denied Republicans the 60 votes needed to move forward. Among the sticking points remaining are provisions for corporations getting federal assistance, including policy on stock buybacks and executive pay, as well as unemployment insurance and worker protections.

A livid Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) chastised Democrats for voting against moving forward and blamed Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) for interfering.

"I want everybody to fully understand if we aren't able to act tomorrow, it will be because of our colleagues on the other side continuing to dicker when the country expects us to come together and address the problem," McConnell said on the floor. He added that over the last 48 hours there were bipartisan discussions among "regular members of the Senate, not in the Leadership office, not in the speaker's office for goodness sakes."

"She's the Speaker of the House, not the Speaker of the Senate," McConnell added. "We were doing just fine until that intervention."

"The majority leader was well aware of how the vote would go before it happened but he chose to go forward with it anyway even though negotiations are continuing," Schumer said on the floor. "So who's playing games? But our caucus is united to deliver a bill that addresses this health and economic crisis quickly and we're committed to working in a bipartisan way to get it done."

Late Sunday night, McConnell was forced to reschedule a repeat of the same vote he lost. McConnell had wanted to hold it at 9:45 a.m., shortly after Wall Street opened, to pressure Schumer and Senate Democrats.

Analysis: Answer the questions below

What information do **BOTH** articles give the reader?

What information is in **Article 1** that **IS NOT** in **Article 2**?

What information is in **Article 2** that **IS NOT** in **Article 1**?

What is the **TONE** (attitude of the writer toward the subject or audience) of each article?

Article 1:
Article 2:

If you only read one article, what is the "story" being told?

Article 1:
Article 2:

What effect could censorship have on a society or news?