Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Ms. Marciano Block \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Fahrenheit 451 – Socratic Seminar Questions

**Directions**: Prepare to discuss these questions tomorrow in class. You are expected to verbally participate at least twice. This is a graded assessment.

1. How similar is the society found in *Fahrenheit 451* to our own society? In what ways are they similarities?
2. *Fahrenheit 451* was written in 1953. Do you think its world is more similar to the world of 1953 or our world now? How close do you think Bradbury was in his imagining of a future world?
3. What is significant about Mildred referring to the people on her wall TVs as “family”? How does her relationship to them both resemble and differ from a real family?
4. Beatty hints that one reason for eradicating books is that every book offends some other group of people. Do you think there is a place for censorship? If so, how would you decide what books are and are not acceptable?
5. What do books contain that might make them so important? Are there other places you can find these qualities? You can use characters’ ideas from the novel, your own, or a combination of the two to answer this question.
6. Did this book cause you to realize or see anything differently regarding books, censorship, society, your own world or actions or anything else?
7. What is the meaning of life in this book? Is it valued?
8. Are there any circumstances where censorship might play a beneficial role in society? Are there some books that should be banned?
9. One suicide and one near-suicide occur in this book. Why would two people who seem to be so different from each other try to take their own lives? Why does suicide happen so frequently in Montag's society?"
10. Montag turns to books to rescue him; instead they help demolish his life- -he loses his wife, job and home; he kills a man and is forced to be a nomad. Does he gain any benefits from books? If so, what are they?
11. The Captain says about the Mechanical Hound, " 'It doesn't think anything we don't want it to think,' " and Montag says " 'That's sad . . . because all we put into it is hunting and finding and killing' " (Bradbury 27). How does this reflect the society in the book, especially the Firemen? Is the society as adept at "programming" its members as programming the dog?
12. Clarisse describes why she doesn't go to school: " 'Being with people is nice. But I don't think it's social to get a bunch of people together and not let them talk, do you?' " (Bradbury 29). Do modern schools hinder social behavior? Can Clarisse really be more social than someone who goes to school?
13. Montag says, " 'We need to be really bothered once in a while. How long is it since you [Mildred] were *really* bothered?' " (Bradbury 52). What are some ways by which being "really bothered" can make a person better? Does being bothered help you, personally, put things into perspective?