**Social Change Exercise:** When people want to change the world, there are several ways that they can go about doing it:

* **Direct political action** is action through the democratic political system to try to influence laws by directly helping politicians.
  + Meant to change laws.
  + Politicians support a set of policies, and social change is accomplished though trying to  
    support them – changes come as a package and depend on the politician to see them  
    through.
  + This can include simply voting, but also donating to political candidates or parties,  
    working on political campaigns, or even running for office yourself.
* **Protest movements** try to influence the way that people think about politics and society through visible, emotional demonstrations that are meant to build support among enough people to raise awareness of issues and change how people think about them.
  + Meant to change both laws and opinions.
  + If the aim is to change laws, then politicians are influenced indirectly through popular  
    support for change.
  + Changes sought are specific and not part of a package.
  + There are many famous examples. Some of the most famous are the antiwar movement  
    during the Vietnam War, the Civil Rights movement and the Women’s Rights moment.
  + Protest movements can be both violent and nonviolent.
* **Education** tries to influence the way that people think about politics and society by teaching them more about the issue and the different courses of action.
  + Meant to change both laws and opinions.
  + If the aim is to change laws, politicians are influenced indirectly through raising awareness of the consequences of different policy actions. These movements tend to be less emotional and more logical.
  + Changes sought are specific and not part of a package.
  + Examples include using books (for instance, The Lorax is meant to educate children about the environment), seminars held by interested groups, and publishing studies and papers for policy makers and interested citizens.

War is another, more drastic, method of social change, and the one that’s been forced on Montag’s world. What do you think it will mean for their future? How does war compare to other methods?

Does social change happen even if people don’t go looking for it?

What forms of social change do we see in Fahrenheit 451? Do you think they will be successful in changing in the future?

Has the world of Fahrenheit 451 been changing or resisting change? How do you think your answer has impacted the world in the book?