An Introduction to the Novel:

# burnbook***Fahrenheit 451* – WebQuest**

A Web Quest project uses the resources of the Internet to explore and answer questions pertaining to a particular topic. We are going to explore the issue of censorship – past and present.

Introduction

Learn about censorship in today’s society. How does society affect the life of a teenager? Draw comparisons between censorship today and Ray Bradbury’s life experiences.

**Step I: Who is Ray Bradbury?**

<http://www.raybradbury.com/index.html>

1. When/Where was Ray Bradbury born?
2. What major life events or ideas may have influenced Ray Bradbury while growing up?

**Step II: Censorship**

[**http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/cultureshock/whodecides/definitions.html**](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/cultureshock/whodecides/definitions.html)

<http://www.serendipity.li/cda.html>

1. What is censorship?
2. What are some forms of censorship?
3. What are basic arguments for or against censoring?
4. Where in the world is censorship prevalent? Is it an issue in the US?

**Step III: Nazi Book Burning:**

<http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10005852>

<http://www.historyplace.com/worldwar2/timeline/bookburn.htm>

1. What is significant about the date May 10, 1933?
2. Why do you think the Nazis burned books? What were their reasons?
3. What effect do you think the burning of books had on the authors whose works were burned?

**Step IV**: McCarthyism and Blacklisting in Hollywood---Each link takes you to a page that tells a small part of the story. You will need to look at several of the pages to get a complete picture.

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/americanmasters/episodes/arthur-miller/mccarthyism/484/>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hollywood_blacklist>

[www.english.upenn.edu/~afilreis/50s/blacklist.html](http://www.english.upenn.edu/~afilreis/50s/blacklist.html)

1. Why did this happen?
2. When did this happen?
3. Could it happen again? Explain.
4. How might it have inspired Bradbury to write *Fahrenheit 451*?

Step V

Book Banning:

<http://www.ala.org/bbooks/about>

* + - 1. Who is in favor of these limitations on freedom of speech?
      2. Why are they in favor of them?
      3. Who is opposed?
      4. Why are they opposed?

1. Which side do you agree with? Why?