

Student Worksheet

DIRECTIONS

Read the following news story and answer the reading comprehension and discussion questions. Use additional paper if necessary.

STORY

Markets Falter After Congress Fails to Agree on Rescue Plan

September 30, 2008

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/us/july-dec08/bailout_9-30.html

READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Why did the stock market falter on Monday, September 29, 2008?
2. How many votes did the rescue package lose by?
3. What is the DOW and how much did it drop on Monday?
4. What do housing prices have to do with the economic meltdown?
5. What is a credit crisis?
6. What is Treasury Secretary Paulson's plan to bailout the banks?
7. Why did Democrats and some Republicans vote against the bill?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (more research might be needed)

1. Do you think the rescue plan was a good idea? Why or why not?

2. Imagine you are a member of congress. Would you vote for or against the bailout? List some pros and cons of each decision.

3. Does the recent financial crisis influence your view on who should be the next president? Why or why not?

4. What should happen next to deal with the financial crisis?

Extension Activity

Have students write a 300-500 word essay on this topic providing clear examples. Send your completed editorial to NewsHour Extra (extra@newshour.org). Exceptional essays might be published on our Web site.