Introduction:

The bias blind spot, a term first coined by Emily Pronin, Daniel Lin, and Lee Ross (2002) at Stanford University, is when an individual fails to recognize their own biases and how they impact their perceptions and judgments. This activity engages with this concept by first asking you to perform a selective attention test, created by Dr. Daniel Simons, Professor of Psychology at University of Illinois, to see if you notice a gorilla that appears on the screen as you are focusing on one aspect of a video. Then, you will watch a clip that describes a social experiment facilitated by CBS This Morning co-host Tony Dokoupil, where he showed Republicans and Democrats the exact same clip of a confrontation between police and protestors and asked them who they believed was the aggressor. You will discuss this clip, along with the selective attention test, using the concept of the bias blind spot and reflect on how you might check your own bias blind spots in the future.

Participant Instructions:

1. Watch the selective attention test video twice.

2. After watching the video a second time, engage in group discussion:

   - If you didn't notice the gorilla when we first watched this video, why do you think you missed it? Conversely, if you did notice the gorilla, why do you think it caught your attention?
   - What does this test reveal about how we perceive we world?

3. Then, show the video from *CBS This Morning* and discuss the following questions:

   - What was the main idea/argument presented in this news clip?
   - What is a bias blind spot? How does it apply to the social experiment presented in this video?
   - How does the bias blind spot relate to the selective attention test? How does selective attention relate to bias?
   - What are some other issues, besides the protests, where someone's bias blind spot may affect how they see or judge the situation?
   - How can you use the information that you learned in this lesson to help you check and consider your own bias blind spot in the future?