

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

## Perspective: ANC Youth member

**Description of Event** It is 1961, and the Apartheid government of South Africa has established Pass Laws and the Group Areas Act. The Apartheid government was founded by Dutch immigrants to South Africa who adopted a brutal and racial form of government. The Pass Laws required all non-white individuals to carry Pass books with them which described their ability to move freely from one area of the country to another. The Group Areas Act placed restrictions on the movement of native people (i.e. Zulu, Swazi, Hot-tentot) to undesirable lands away from the more prosperous white-owned lands. These actions have angered many native Africans to the point that they have taken up arms against the oppressive government. Two years prior, the Sharpeville Massacre occurred during which approximately 69 people were killed and 186 injured when police fired on a crowd of 3,000 peaceful protestors. Most of the protestors were shot in the back. Now, a political group, named the African National Congress, has decided to abandon peaceful protesting for violence. Nelson Mandela, is leading the militant wing called Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK), which means 'tip of the spear.' News has broke that MK has just blown up a regional electrical station causing power to go out to a large all white suburb of Pretoria.

**Your Role** As a 12-year old, you joined the ANC because you believe that they are the only way towards a unified, just South Africa. You are now 18 and you have worked hard for the movement to free South Africa of its racial government known as Apartheid. You have been involved with many peaceful protests, have participated in civil disobedience (i.e. not carried your Pass book with you, or drank out of a fountain meant for whites only), and you have helped friends escape police who were trying to imprison them for their frivolous laws. You are overwhelmed with the news that Mandela's MK group has blown up an electrical station. You are excited that the ANC is doing more than just holding up signs and singing songs for freedom, however you are scared of violence. You have heard Mahatma Ghandi speak about passive resistance and you believe that it is a very peaceful and positive means towards resolving an issue. You are worried that once arms are taken up, the country will take a step closer to full scale civil war. However, you stand behind the ANC, despite your concerns. One of your close friends was killed in Sharpeville and so you want the government to fall regardless of the cost.