

Name: _____ Date: _____

Perspective: Boer Police officer

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 an officer of the law, you are very concerned about the destruction of public property and you believe that the action of Mandela to destroy a power station is a treasonous act. In addition, this act affected you and your family as your home lost power due to his actions. As a result, you were late to work, you had to take a cold shower, and your food spoiled in the fridge over the night. As a Boer, you have a strong racial identity. Your family immigrated to South Africa 40 years ago and you have lived and worked here all the while. You believe that you deserve the right to earn a living and that you should be allowed to exact a few small inconveniences on the native population in order to get there. You believe that the Pass Laws and Group Areas Act are good laws which will help everyone have a better South Africa. You also believe that the native Africans do not understand that the Pass Laws and Group Areas Act are good for them because it gives them their own land and more control over their lives. You are angry with Mandela's action and you consider him to be terrorizing your family and your people.