

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

## Perspective: English Journalist

**Description of Event** Mao Zedong has risen to power of the People's Republic of China in 1949. His powerful Communist Party of China drove the Kuomintang out of power and took over control of China in a bloody military battle. He has just completed his first five years in power which resulted in industrialization of China with assistance from Russia. Now, in 1958, Mao has developed his Second Five Year Plan which is also called 'The Great Leap Forward.' As part of his program, Mao has instituted a land reform plan whereby wealthy landowners must give their lands over to poor peasants. This plan was meant to help enrich the lives of the poor while decreasing the social status and clout of wealthy land lords. This is in keeping with communist ideas which state that a society exists for everyone's benefit. Therefore, under this type of government, rich and poor categories are discouraged so that everybody is equal and will be benefitted by helping their fellow country persons.

**Your Role** As an English journalist, you have seen communists rise and fall by looking throughout history. Your country is currently leaning more and more towards a welfare state, which is where the government provides lots of assistance to repressed populations. Some say that this is very close to a communist state like what exists in China. You understand that Mao wants to provide the best possible chance for a productive life to all Chinese people, but you see the injustice that this puts on the wealthy people. As a journalist, you have some wealth built up and you would be very upset if your government tried to take it away and give it to someone else. In addition, you grew up in a poorer family who had to work hard to get you to school so you could become a journalist. Your family benefitted from government work and your father was a colonel in WWII. You need to decide on how Mao's decision to take land away from the poor and give it to the rich should be written about for the British citizens and the Western world at large.