



FOR YOU  
TO DO!

# Recognising Fact and Opinion

When involved in conflict situations, the ability to be able to distinguish between fact and opinion is very important.

**A fact** is something that has really happened, actually exists or can be proven to be true.

e.g. *Between 1990-1994, 79 of the 82 conflicts in the world were wars within nations.*

**An opinion** is something that people believe or think, their attitude or viewpoint, but it can not be proven to be true. e.g. *Modern warfare is more horrific than in the past.*

1. Circle the 'odd one out'? Explain why it is 'odd'?

War is often the only option a government has.	War never achieves anything good.
Without wars the global economy would collapse.	In the 1990s war killed more than 2 million children.

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2. Read the short notes on recent case studies of two young people who have been affected by conflict situations. Use one colour to underline all the facts and another colour to underline all the opinions. Complete the key to show what each colour stands for.

V, from Uganda, was 15 when a guerrilla army kidnapped her and made her a soldier. She was forced to kill a boy who tried to escape and was beaten for dropping a water container under fire. Guerrillas who kidnap children deserve to be shot.

Sherab Ngawang, 12, was arrested for being in a peaceful demonstration in Tibet, sent to a labour camp, released three years later but soon died. Death was probably a result of injuries from beatings. She should never have been sent there.

Key:


Fact

Opinion

3. Browse the Information Zone pages at [www.worldvision.org.nz/frontline](http://www.worldvision.org.nz/frontline) to complete the chart with five facts and five opinions about conflict.

FACTS ABOUT CONFLICT	OPINIONS ABOUT CONFLICT