

**Introduction:** People, businesses and nations have conflicting ideas and interests; that's a simple fact. How parties in conflict resolve their issues is more complex. But generally, it boils down to boundaries and choices.

Boundaries are powerful. Your personal boundaries establish what you will and will not put up with; they show that you have self respect and all the courage and dignity that comes along with it. When a peer consistently puts you down, it feels wrong because he or she has crossed a boundary. Luckily, you have another power — choice. You can think about and choose the best way to handle the situation. You are not helpless. Setting boundaries shows the world you're strong; making thoughtful choices shows you're wise.

Like people, businesses and nations set boundaries and

make choices. If an enemy country crosses a physical or political boundary, a nation can choose to negotiate, decide to send in troops or start a full-fledged war. When considering these options, policy makers think about the strength and purpose of the boundary and the seriousness of the offense.

Look through the newspaper and identify one local, one national and one international conflict. Also think of one conflict occurring in your personal life. Briefly summarize each dispute and the players involved. Next, list three possible solutions for each conflict and circle the one you think is the best choice. Finally, under the heading "Boundary issue," write a comment about each conflict that describes a boundary that has been crossed or one that needs to be set.

	Summary of dispute	Three possible solutions	Boundary issue
International		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.</li> <li>2.</li> <li>3.</li> </ol>	
National		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.</li> <li>2.</li> <li>3.</li> </ol>	
Local		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.</li> <li>2.</li> <li>3.</li> </ol>	
Personal		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.</li> <li>2.</li> <li>3.</li> </ol>	