



## SKILLBUILDER

# Drawing Conclusions

## ►► Defining the Skill

You are drawing conclusions when you read carefully, analyze what you read, and form an opinion based on facts about the subject. Often you must use your own common sense, your experiences, and your previous knowledge of a subject to draw a conclusion.

## ►► Applying the Skill

The passage to the right is about the years following independence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Use the following strategies to help you draw conclusions based on the passage.

### How to Draw Conclusions

**Strategy 1** Read the passage carefully. Pay attention to the statements that can be proved to be true.

**Strategy 2** Locate the facts in the passage and list them in a diagram. Use your common sense, your experiences, and your previous knowledge to understand how the facts relate to one another.

**Strategy 3** Apply your common sense, experiences, and previous knowledge to the new facts from the passage, and then write a conclusion based on your gathered evidence.

### Make a Diagram

A diagram is a way of organizing facts. The diagram to the right shows how to organize the facts and inferences from the passage above and a conclusion that could be drawn from them.

## ►► Practicing the Skill

Turn to pages 325–326 and reread the passage entitled “African Minerals.” Make a diagram like the one to the right to draw conclusions from the passage.

In 1960, the country then known as the Belgian Congo gained independence. Five years later, Mobutu Sese Seko seized power and renamed the country Zaire. Mobutu ruled Zaire until 1997. **1** Even though this country has some of the richest resources in Africa—copper, gold, and diamonds—Mobutu led the country into greater poverty. **1** He put much of the country’s money into his personal bank accounts. **1** Mobutu ruled like a dictator, requiring men who worked in the government to dress like him and allowing only his political party to have any power.

**1** In 1997, Laurent Kabila led a rebel army into Zaire from the east and took over the government of Zaire. **1** He immediately renamed the country the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Many people in Congo hoped that Kabila would work to improve life there, but instead, he led the country into war with neighboring nations. **1** When Kabila seized power, Mobutu fled to Morocco, where he died in 1997. **1** At the time of his death, there was no mention on radio or television in Congo that he died.

