



## **Model Revision of an Introduction**

**Armed and Ready: Major Reasons Behind the Trafficking of Child Soldiers**

# First Rough Draft

Approximately over 300,000 teenage girls and boys under the age of 18 are currently fighting in more than 30 global conflicts. Children are used as fighters, messengers, porters and cooks. They are also forced to provide sexual services or even forced into marriages. Some children are abducted or compulsorily recruited; other children are driven to join the army due to poverty, abuse, ignorance and prejudice, or to seek out revenge for violence enacted against them or against their own families. When you alienate children from their families, they would be vulnerable and easily influenced to join military forces or army. Placed away from home and parental guidance those children have limited access or minimal education. To guarantee daily food and survival children are sometimes forced by their families to join the army. Children who take part in armed conflicts are frequently used for the most treacherous tasks as they are regarded in being dispensable and disposable. Armed conflict can not be taken slightly since they are a major public health hazard. There are more than a 1,000 of children who are murdered every single year as a result of joining the army. Bullets, knife wounds, landmines and bombs are some of the main reasons why children die but on the other hand many die from disease and malnutrition.

*This introduction is 220 words in length.*



**Photo: Jacky Naegelen/Reuters**

# Step 1: Cite Other People's Ideas

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), in its 2013 fact sheet *Child Soldiers*, reports that **Approximately 300,000 teenage girls and boys under the age of 18 are currently fighting in more than 30 global conflicts.** ~~Children are used as fighters, messengers, porters and cooks.~~ The report goes on to conclude that ~~S~~**some children may serve as fighters and messengers while others work as porters and cooks. They . . . .**

- A. **Check for ideas that are not your own.** (*Unless you were in a trance when you highlighted sentences in an article and then copied and pasted them into your document, you know which ideas are not yours and which sentences you did not write.*)
- B. **If information is already paraphrased, make sure the author and date of publication are cited.**
- C. **If information is word-for-word, paraphrase it and cite the author and date of publication.**

## Step 1: Cite Other People's Ideas (cont.)

United Nations Children's Fund.

2013. Factsheet: Child soldiers.

Retrieved from

<http://www.unicef.org/emerg/>

[files/childsoldiers.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/emerg/files/childsoldiers.pdf)

Using APA formatting, cite the source on the reference page.

## Step 2: Attract the Reader's Attention in the First Sentence

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), in its 2013 fact sheet *Child Soldiers*, reports that approximately 300,000 teenage girls and boys under the age of 18 are currently fighting in more than 30 global conflicts . . . .



Attract attention by starting with:

- Startling statement
- Anecdote
- Unknown statistic/fact
- Quotation

Regardless of which technique you use to attract the reader's attention, the opening sentence must refer to the general topic of your paper.

### Step 3: Check for logical organization of ideas in background information

Jobs in army

Causes

Effects

Group similar ideas together

The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), in its 2013 fact sheet *Child Soldiers*, reports that approximately over 300,000 teenage girls and boys under the age of 18 are currently fighting in more than 30 global conflicts. The report goes on to conclude that some children may serve as fighters and messengers while others work as porters and cooks. They are also forced to provide sexual services or even forced into marriages. Some children are abducted or compulsorily recruited; other children are driven to join the army due to poverty, abuse, ignorance and prejudice, or to seek out revenge for violence enacted against them or against their own families. When you alienate children from their families, they would be vulnerable and easily influenced to join military forces or army. Placed away from home and parental guidance those children have limited access or minimal education. To guarantee daily food and survival children are sometimes forced by there families to join the army. Children who take part in armed conflicts are frequently used for the most treacherous tasks as they are regarded in being dispensable and disposable. Armed conflict can not be taken slightly since they are a major public health hazard. There are more than a 1,000 of children who are murdered every single year as a result of joining the army. Bullets, knife wounds, landmines and bombs are some of the main reasons why children die but on the other hand many die from disease and malnutrition.

### **Step 3: Check for logical organization of ideas in background information (cont.)**

**Jobs in army**

**Causes**

**Effects**

### **Group similar ideas together**

The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), in its 2013 fact sheet *Child Soldiers*, reports that approximately over 300,000 teenage girls and boys under the age of 18 are currently fighting in more than 30 global conflicts. The report goes on to conclude that some children may serve as fighters and messengers while others work as porters and cooks. They are also forced to provide sexual services or even forced into marriages. Children who take part in armed conflicts are frequently used for the most treacherous tasks as they are regarded in being dispensable and disposable. Some children are abducted or compulsorily recruited; other children are driven to join the army due to poverty, abuse, ignorance and prejudice, or to seek out revenge for violence enacted against them or against their own families. To guarantee daily food and survival children are sometimes forced by their families to join the army. When you alienate children from their families, they would be vulnerable and easily influenced to join military forces or army. Placed away from home and parental guidance those children have limited access or minimal education. Armed conflict can not be taken slightly since they are a major public health hazard. There are more than a 1,000 of children who are murdered every single year as a result of joining the army. Bullets, knife wounds, landmines and bombs are some of the main reasons why children die but on the other hand many die from disease and malnutrition.

## Step 4: Eliminate any unnecessary information

Jobs in army

Causes

Effects

**For example, if your paper focuses on the causes of something, you should delete most “cause” background information.**

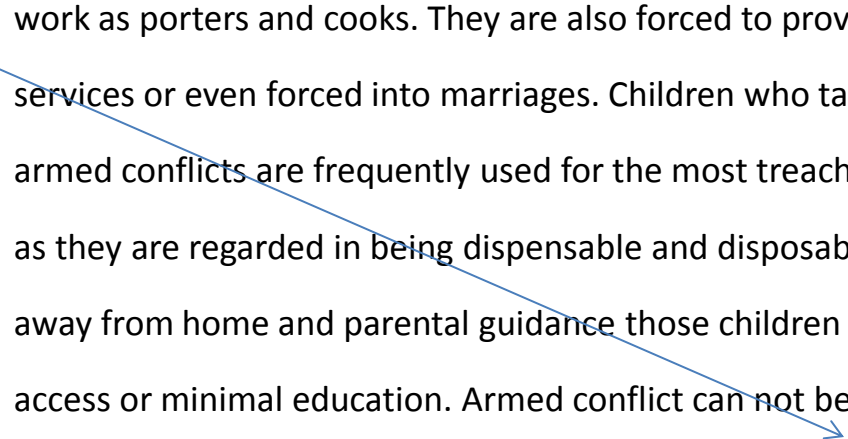
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## Step 5: Importance of topic

The background information should include why the topic is important.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), in its 2013 fact sheet *Child Soldiers*, reports that approximately over 300,000 teenage girls and boys under the age of 18 are currently fighting in more than 30 global conflicts. The report goes on to conclude that some children may serve as fighters and messengers while others work as porters and cooks. They are also forced to provide sexual services or even forced into marriages. Children who take part in armed conflicts are frequently used for the most treacherous tasks as they are regarded in being dispensable and disposable. Placed away from home and parental guidance those children have limited access or minimal education. Armed conflict can not be taken slightly since they are a major public health hazard. There are more than a 1,000 of children who are murdered every single year as a result of joining the army. Bullets, knife wounds, landmines and bombs are some of the main reasons why children die but on the other hand many die from disease and malnutrition.



## Step 6: Controversial

**The background information should include why the topic is controversial.**

Oops!!! I'd better add why my topic is controversial:  
*Some people argue that not enforcing the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child is at the root of the problem, whereas other people insist that the cause lies in another direction.*

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), in its 2013 fact sheet *Child Soldiers*, reports that approximately over 300,000 teenage girls and boys under the age of 18 are currently fighting in more than 30 global conflicts. The report goes on to conclude that some children may serve as fighters and messengers while others work as porters and cooks. They are also forced to provide sexual services or even forced into marriages. Children who take part in armed conflicts are frequently used for the most treacherous tasks as they are regarded in being dispensable and disposable. Placed away from home and parental guidance those children have limited access or minimal education. Armed conflict can not be taken slightly since they are a major public health hazard. There are more than a 1,000 of children who are murdered every single year as a result of joining the army. Bullets, knife wounds, landmines and bombs are some of the main reasons why children die but on the other hand many die from disease and malnutrition.

## **Step 7: Check the thesis sentence**

- 1. Should be last sentence in introductory paragraph**
- 2. Should include verb indicating organizational pattern of paper**
- 3. Should state the main points or give the number of main points**

The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), in its 2013 fact sheet *Child Soldiers*, reports that approximately over 300,000 teenage girls and boys under the age of 18 are currently fighting in more than 30 global conflicts . . . . Bullets, knife wounds, landmines and bombs are some of the main reasons why children die but on the other hand many die from disease and malnutrition. Some people argue that not enforcing the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child is at the root of the problem, whereas other people insist that the cause lies in another direction. However, this paper argues that poverty and ignorance most often lead to the trafficking of children as child soldiers.

## Step 8: Unity and cohesion

1. Identify keywords in the opening sentence.
2. List synonyms for each keyword.
3. Use these synonyms in subsequent sentences.

The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), in its 2013 fact sheet *Child Soldiers*, reports that approximately over 300,000 teenage girls and boys under the age of 18 are currently fighting in more than 30 global conflicts .

- A. Child – youngster, youth, young person
- B. Soldier – fighter, combatant
- C. Teenage – adolescent, teen, juvenile, youth
- D. Fight – war, conflict, battle, hostilities

The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), in its 2013 fact sheet *Child Soldiers*, reports that approximately over 300,000 teenage girls and boys under the age of 18 are currently fighting in more than 30 global conflicts. The report goes on to conclude that some youths may serve as armed combatants and messengers while others work as porters and cooks . . . .

## Step 8: Unity and cohesion (cont.)

Check that the idea in the previous sentence is logically related to the idea in the current sentence.

1. Pronouns
2. Synonyms
3. Signal words (transitions, adverbs, etc.)

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), in its 2013 fact sheet *Child Soldiers*, reports that approximately over 300,000 **teenage girls and boys** under the age of 18 are currently fighting in more than 30 global conflicts. The **report** goes on to conclude that some **youths** may **serve** as armed **combatants** and messengers while others work as porters and cooks . They are **also** forced to provide sexual services or even forced into marriages . . . .

## Step 9: Variety

### Use a variety of sentences

1. Simple
2. Compound
3. Complex
4. Compound complex

The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), in its 2013 fact sheet *Child Soldiers*, reports that approximately over 300,000 teenage girls and boys under the age of 18 are currently fighting in more than 30 global conflicts. The report goes on to conclude that some youths may serve as armed combatants and messengers while others work as porters and cooks . They are also forced to provide sexual services or even forced into marriages . . . . Bullets, knife wounds, landmines and bombs are some of the main reasons why children die, but many also die from disease and malnutrition. Some people argue that not enforcing the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child is at the root of the problem, whereas other people insist that the cause lies in another direction. However, this paper argues that poverty and ignorance most often lead to the trafficking of children as child soldiers.