**Analysis activity 9.3: Primary source analysis**

*My name is John Lacey. I left America in 1967 just after leaving college. I did this to avoid being drafted. I went to Canada and then to Sweden where I lived until there was an amnesty for draft-dodgers which let me return to the USA.*

*Was I a coward? Did I let my country down? In one way I was a coward for I left rather than go to jail for my refusal to join the army. But I wasn’t afraid to fight. I refused to serve in Vietnam because we had no right to be there. We only brought untold suffering and destruction to that country. We acted like the bully of the world and used all our vast military might against a small nation of peasants.*

*Some people might say that I was not in a position to judge what was happening in Vietnam. However, there were many war veterans who hated the war just as much as I did. They saw the injustices at first hand and they condemned the war too.*

*I’m bitter about our government’s actions. They lied to justify their actions and while they spent millions in bombing North Vietnam the problems in the ghettoes of our big cities grew worse and worse. The Vietnam War has left a deep scar on my country.*

J. Cannon et al., *The Contemporary World: Conflict or Co-operation?,* p. 26

1. Did Lacey believe he was a coward? Explain his thinking.

1. What were his main concerns about the amount of money the government spent on the war?

1. Why did he return to the USA?