

Student Worksheet 2-Understanding the Evidence

Name: _____

Directions: Read the text on the following student handouts. Then answer the following questions about the major problems that workers in the Pittsburgh steel mills faced in the early 1900s.

Student Handout 6:

1. Why was it often difficult to obtain an accurate record of the number and causes of death in the steel industry?
2. To what causes did the report by The Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel and Tin Workers attribute most of the injuries and deaths?
3. According to the document, what is the greatest cause of workplace injury and death?

Student Handout 7:

4. What problems does the length of the workday cause for steel workers? How does the change in shift times worsen this problem?
5. Why is the length of the workday viewed as the most dangerous problem to the workers' health?

Student Handout 8:

6. How many total fatalities were recorded in the Pittsburgh steel plants in 1907?
7. How many of these accidents were directly related to safety issues (explosions, asphyxiation, shock, falls, operation of rolls)? What type of accidents might account for the miscellaneous causes?
8. What other industry is directly related to making steel?

Student Handout 9:

9. According to Miss Eastman's conclusions in *The Pittsburgh Survey*, why did steel companies defend their "policy of silence" with regard to the number and type of workplace accidents?
10. What should any government legislation address concerning workplace accidents? Should this legislation be limited to the steel industry? Why or why not?
11. Why types of work-related issues should the government address through legislation?
12. How could so many accidents have been prevented?