

## Teacher Guide to Student Worksheet 2-Understanding the Evidence

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? **Anticipated answers include lack of complete member lists and deaths of members not in good standing.**
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? **Anticipated answers include dust inhalation, heat, changes in temperature all leading to tuberculosis and pneumonia.**
3. According to the document, what is the greatest cause of workplace injury and death? **Anticipated answers are accidental deaths and injuries.**

### 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? **Anticipated answers include the desire of men to leave the plant as soon as possible so they fail to bathe after work. This leads to illness and disease. The men suffer from fatigue because the shift changes disrupt their sleep.**
5. Why is the length of the workday viewed as the most dangerous problem to the workers' health? **Anticipated answer includes the men's energy levels are less and this lowers their resistance to diseases.**

### Student Handout 8:

6. How many total fatalities were recorded in the Pittsburgh steel plants in 1907? **Correct answer is 195.**
7. How many of these accidents were directly related to safety issues (explosions, asphyxiation, shock, operation of rolls, falls)? **Correct answer is 68. Miscellaneous causes could include fatigue, slipping on the floor, lost balance, bumped by someone or something.**
8. What other industry is directly related to making steel? **Correct answer is the railroad industry.**

### 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? **Anticipated answers include the unwillingness by the companies to create a panic in the workplace. The company owners may have been unwilling to acknowledge any dangers in their factories or responsibility to correct them.**
10. What should any government legislation address concerning workplace accidents? Should this legislation be limited to the steel industry? Why or why not? **Anticipated answers include that laws should address the prevention of common accidents that involve repairs, cleaning and oiling – common practices in many factories. The laws should be applied to many industries.**
11. Why types of work-related issues should the government address through legislation? **Anticipated answers include laws that shorten the work day, time for breaks, and safety standards.**
12. How could so many accidents have been prevented? **Anticipated answer includes the adequate enforcement of existing laws in Pennsylvania and compensation to the families of the injured workers would have lessened the need for men to take such risks in the factories.**