

## Quake Case Study Answer Key

1. **Primary** - The handwritten letter is a firsthand account written by someone who directly experienced the event.
2. **Primary** - The photographs were taken at the time, serving as direct visual evidence of the destruction.
3. **Secondary** - The modern history textbook summarizes and interprets past events for readers.
4. **Secondary** - The documentary offers analysis and interpretation, even though it may include primary materials.
5. **Primary** - The 1906 newspaper article was published immediately after the event, making it a direct record from that time.
6. **Secondary** - The biography is written later, interpreting and retelling the mayor's role in the event.

### Teacher's Notes:

- This case study helps students see how researchers often use **both source types together** to build a strong project.
- Point out that **time and perspective matter**: the closer to the actual event, the more likely it is to be primary.
- Encourage students to notice "mixed" sources: a newspaper written at the time = **primary**, while a biography written years later = **secondary**, even though both tell about the same people and event.
- Extension activity: Have students create their own short case study on a recent event (school sports game, local celebration, or news event), then list one primary and one secondary source they could use.