

Name _____



Fact Or Interpretation

Directions: Read the passage carefully. Some sentences present **firsthand facts** from people who experienced the event (these are **Primary Sources**).

Other sentences present **later interpretations** written by historians or authors (these are **Secondary Sources**). After reading, label each numbered sentence as **Fact (P)** for Primary or **Interpretation (S)** for Secondary.

_____ (1) In his battlefield diary, a Union soldier wrote, *"The smoke was so thick, I could barely see my own regiment advancing."*

_____ (2) This diary entry provides a firsthand glimpse of the confusion soldiers felt during the Civil War.

_____ (3) A historian later explained that the heavy smoke was caused by the type of gunpowder used in rifles at the time.

_____ (4) In an 1863 letter, another soldier described hearing cannon fire echo across the hills for hours.

_____ (5) Modern history books often interpret these letters as evidence of the overwhelming scale of Civil War battles.

_____ (6) One author argued that such accounts showed how ordinary soldiers experienced both fear and bravery at the same time.

_____ (7) A preserved newspaper article printed the day after the Battle of Gettysburg listed the number of casualties reported by officials.

_____ (8) A recent article in a history magazine explained that casualty reports were sometimes exaggerated or delayed, affecting public opinion.