

## Student Worksheet

### DIRECTIONS

Read the following news story and answer the reading comprehension and discussion questions. Use additional paper if necessary.

### STORY

**New Report Confirms Gulf War Syndrome Is Real**, 11/21/08

[http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/health/july-dec08/gulf\\_11-21.html](http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/health/july-dec08/gulf_11-21.html)

### READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

**1. What started the First Gulf War?**

**2. What is Gulf War syndrome?**

**3. What are the symptoms?**

**4. How many soldiers suffer from Gulf War Illness?**

**5. What caused the illness?**

**6. Why is this report a “bittersweet” victory?**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (more research might be needed)

**1. Why do you think there has been so little research into a cure for the illness?**

**2. Some veterans have been suffering for 17 years how do you think they should be compensated? Where should the money come from? Remember that many soldiers are returning from the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) how should these soldiers be helped?**

**3. Imagine you suffered from Gulf War illness, what significance do you think this report would have to you?**

**4. Is there a Veterans Administration health care facility in your community? What can your school do to help care for veterans returning from wars?**

**Extension Activity**

Have students write a 300-500 word essay on this topic providing clear examples. Send your completed editorial to NewsHour Extra (extra@newshour.org). Exceptional essays might be published on our Web site.