US History Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**The My Lai Massacre**: Reading Questions

Source: *New York Times UpFront*, February 25, 2008.

1. What challenges did American soldiers face in trying to identify the enemy in Vietnam?
2. What did the soldiers of Charlie Company expect to find in “Pinkville?” What were their initial orders?
3. What actually occurred in the village of My Lai on March 16, 1968?
4. How did the story of the My Lai Massacre end up getting discovered?
   1. Why do you think it took over year for the public to find out?
5. What punishments were handed out for the My Lai Massacre?
6. In your opinion, how much responsibility for the massacre belongs to…
   1. Lt. William Calley?
   2. All of the soldiers involved in the killing?
   3. The military commanders who sent Charlie Company into Pinkville?
7. According to the article, what is one similarity between the war in Vietnam and our more recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan?

**Reflection questions on back**

Do you **agree or disagree** with each of the following statements. **Explain** your response.

1. *Soldiers should not be held accountable for their actions if they were following orders from those above them.*
2. *William Calley served an appropriate sentence for his actions in My Lai.*
3. *There are certain actions, like the intentional killing of civilians, that are never acceptable, even in war.*