

## What Are Primary Sources?

Remember, the difference between a primary and secondary source is determined by two things:

1. **Source Use:** the way you're using the source
2. **Source Authority:** when and by whom the source was created

	Primary Source	Secondary Source
<b>Definition</b>	Firsthand account created by someone who experienced the event or time period	Secondhand account created by someone who did not experience the event or period
<b>When was it created?</b>	At the time of (or soon after) the event	After the event
<b>What does it use for evidence/examples?</b>	Firsthand knowledge or experience	Interpretation of primary sources
<b>What are some examples of this type of source?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Letters</li><li>• Diaries/journals/memoirs</li><li>• Investigative magazine or newspaper articles</li><li>• Photos, posters, postcards</li><li>• Maps</li><li>• Songs, plays, novels, poems</li><li>• Visual art/architecture</li><li>• A/V recordings</li><li>• Interviews and oral histories</li><li>• Government records</li><li>• Data (economic, scientific, demographic, etc.)</li><li>• Emails, texts, tweets</li><li>• Physical artifacts</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Textbooks</li><li>• Scholarly articles</li><li>• Interpretive magazine or newspaper articles</li><li>• Reviews or commentaries</li><li>• Literary criticism</li><li>• Articles or reports analyzing or interpreting data, experiments, etc.</li><li>• Biographies</li></ul>

<p><b>Source 1:</b> <i>President Lincoln's funeral procession...</i>  <b>Source Use:</b> Lincoln's funeral</p> <p><b>Format:</b></p> <p><b>Relevant Bibliographic Info:</b></p> <p><b>Primary or secondary? Why?</b></p>	<p><b>Source 2:</b> ["Check out the fresh look..."]  <b>Source Use:</b> the Library of Congress website</p> <p><b>Format:</b></p> <p><b>Relevant Bibliographic Info:</b></p> <p><b>Primary or secondary? Why?</b></p>
<p><b>Source 3:</b> [Declaration of Independence]  <b>Source Use:</b> the founding of the United States</p> <p><b>Format:</b></p> <p><b>Relevant Bibliographic Info:</b></p> <p><b>Primary or secondary? Why?</b></p>	<p><b>Source 4:</b> <i>The first Thanksgiving 1621</i>  <b>Source Use:</b> the first Thanksgiving</p> <p><b>Format:</b></p> <p><b>Relevant Bibliographic Info:</b></p> <p><b>Primary or secondary? Why?</b></p>