**A Student’s Guide to...**

**Primary and Secondary Sources**

of Research Writers

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Primary** | **Secondary** |
|  | Original document, media clip, or artifact **of the time period** being studied; source | Information **about the time period** or analysis and interpretation of the time period that relies on or makes use of primary sources; resource |
| **Types** | Newspaper articles, diaries, journals, speeches, letters, poems, novels, plays, transcripts, official records, news reels, interviews, radio programs, photographs, film clips, clothing, jewelry, personal possessions, furniture, crafts, art, instruments | Nonfiction resources, textbooks, journal articles, magazine articles, critiques, encyclopedias, dictionaries, interviews |
| **Questions**  **to**  **ask** | 1. Who created it? Whom did it belong to?  2. When was it created?  3. Where was it found? Where was it created?  4. Why was it important to the time period?  5. How does it contribute to my research?  6. Does it contain biases or fallacies? | 1. Is the author an expert?  2. Is the resource current?  3. Does it support/explain/affirm my primary sources?  4. How does it contribute to my research?  5. Is the information reliable?  6. Does it contain biases or fallacies? |

What is the Difference?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Primary** | **Secondary** |
| 350px-Boston_MassacreRevere’s engraving | [*Cost of Freedom : Crispus Attucks and the Boston Massacre*](http://search.barnesandnoble.com/Cost-of-Freedom/Joanne-Mattern/e/9780823943418/?itm=10)(book) |
| 78_lGeorge Washington’s uniform | *Fashioning the Body Politic: Dress, Gender, Citizenship* (book) |
| thumbnailDeath Warrant of the witch trials | The Carey Document: On the Trail of a Salem Death Warrant (online article) |
| 180px-The_Rail_CandidatePolitical Cartoon | [*The Radical and the Republican : Frederick Douglass, Abraham Lincoln, and the Triumph of Antislavery Politics*](http://search.barnesandnoble.com/The-Radical-and-the-Republican/James-Oakes/e/9780393330656/?itm=108)(book) |

**NHD SOURCE**

Documentation Sheet

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Title of Source: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date Found: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Type of Source (book, journal, photo, diary, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Citation** (in proper format: MLA, Chicago/Turabian):

**Summary** of critical information:

**Primary** or **Secondary** Explain

Analysis

How do you know this source is credible?

What conclusions can be made from this source?

What relationship does this source have with other items you have found?

How does this source relate to your prior expectations?

How does this source help you in your research development?

Additional Research questions