

# Primary Source Literacy pre-test

## What's the difference between a primary and secondary source?

Primary sources are "materials in a variety of formats that serve as original evidence documenting a time period, an event, a work, people, or ideas" (from the [Guidelines](#)). Primary sources are typically created at the time of an event or activity, rather than months or years later. They can provide firsthand accounts, whether from participants or observers. There are dozens of types of primary sources, and it is impossible to list them all, but here are some examples:

Primary Source	Secondary Source
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• First-hand account of a topic or event</li><li>• Items such as newspaper articles written at the time of an event, personal letters, diaries, photographs, social media posts, oral histories, art works, as well as 3D objects</li><li>• In the sciences, a primary source contains the original research and/or data.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Interprets, summarizes, or critiques the original information.</li><li>• In the sciences, secondary sources summarize, analyze, or review other research papers, but don't contain the original research.</li></ul>

A source can be considered primary or secondary depending on the discipline and the context of the research. For instance, a book review would typically be considered a secondary source, but someone researching the history of book reviews could use it as a primary source.

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If your research topic was exploring the experiences of women during World War II, which items could you use as primary sources? Select all that apply.

(required)



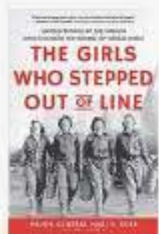
Cartoon from the IOWAVE magazine, Vol iii, No. 19, April 14, 1945.



A history of women in the U.S. Navy, published in 2001.



Ration book belonging to Elizabeth Provan, from Traer, Iowa, ca. 1940-1945.



A recounting of stories from women who lived during World War II. Published 2021.

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