



Primary vs. Secondary Sources

Your professor may tell you that you must use primary or secondary sources or a combination of the two to complete your assignment.

Primary sources are firsthand accounts of an event such as a letter, or in the case of a literature course, the book you're studying such as *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen.

Secondary sources were written by scholars who did not witness the event, a book published by an architectural historian in 2013 about the building of Westminster Abbey is an example of a secondary source. The historian gathered research from primary sources to write her account of the Abbey's construction. She wasn't there to witness it.

Primary

- letters
- speeches
- diaries
- maps
- creative works: poems, literature, art works
- official documents

Secondary

- nonfiction books
- textbooks
- journal articles
- magazine articles
- encyclopedias
- criticisms

Examples of Primary Sources	Examples of Secondary Sources
<i>The Diary of Anne Frank</i>	<i>Genocide in Anne Frank's a Diary of A Young Girl</i> by Louise Hawker
Abraham Lincoln's <i>Gettysburg Address</i>	<i>Lincoln at Gettysburg: The Words That Remade America</i> by Gary Wills
Martin Luther's <i>95 Theses</i>	<i>The Serpent and the Lamb: Cranach, Luther, and the Making of the Reformation</i> by Steven Osmet
2010 United States Census	<i>A Short Introduction to the US Census</i> by John Carl