

Stage 2: Search and Select



Evaluating Primary Sources

2.8



Primary sources of information are ones that have been created, written, or spoken within the time frame being investigated. Primary sources can provide first-hand information about an event, person, or place. Using primary documents or sources requires the ability to read carefully, analyze information, and make connections.

Examples of Primary Sources: Print, Electronic, and Media

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|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| ✓ Letters | ✓ Advertisements | ✓ Surveys |
| ✓ Diaries or Blogs | ✓ Court Records | ✓ Interviews |
| ✓ Maps | ✓ Autobiographies | ✓ Paintings |
| ✓ Government Records | ✓ Media Clips | ✓ Photographs |
| ✓ Magazines | ✓ Voice Recordings | ✓ Sculptures |
| ✓ Newspapers | ✓ Podcasts | ✓ Engravings |
| ✓ Statistical Reports | ✓ Music Recordings | ✓ Sketches |
| ✓ Artifacts and Tools | | ✓ Films or Videos |

Ask yourself some important questions:

- Who made or created the item?
- For whom was it written/made?
- Is it fact or opinion? How do you know?
- Do you trust the information? Why?
- What do you learn about your topic?
- Does this information surprise you or change your mind about your topic?
- Does this item create more questions about your research project?

