### Primary vs. Secondary Sources

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Definitions</th>
<th>Humanities</th>
<th>Sciences</th>
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| Primary Source | • Original, first-hand account of an event or time period  
• Usually written or made during or close to the event or time period  
• Original, creative writing or works of art  
• Factual, not interpretive | • Report of scientific discoveries  
• Results of experiments  
• Results of clinical trials  
• Social and political science research results  
• Factual, not interpretive |
| Secondary Source | • Analyzes and interprets primary sources  
• Second-hand account of an historical event  
• Interprets creative work | • Analyzes and interprets research results  
• Analyzes and interprets scientific discoveries |

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<th>Examples</th>
<th>Humanities</th>
<th>Sciences</th>
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| Primary Source | • Diaries, journals, and letters  
• Newspaper and magazine articles (factual accounts)  
• Government records (census, marriage, military)  
• Photographs, maps, postcards, posters  
• Recorded or transcribed speeches  
• Interviews with participants or witnesses (e.g., The Civil Right Movement)  
• Interviews with people who lived during a particular time (e.g., genocide in Rwanda)  
• Songs, Plays, novels, stories  
• Paintings, drawings, and sculptures | • Published results of research studies  
• Published results of scientific experiments  
• Published results of clinical trials  
• Proceedings of conferences and meetings |
| Secondary Source | • Biographies  
• Histories  
• Literary Criticism  
• Book, Art, and Theater Reviews  
• Newspaper articles that interpret | • Publications about the significance of research or experiments  
• Analysis of a clinical trial  
• Review of the results of several experiments or trials |