

Name: _____

date: _____

Period: _____

ANALYZING SOURCES: PRIMARY OR SECONDARY?

(GOSSFIELD LITERACY, P. 16-8)

Primary Sources

A primary source is someone who creates, is present for, or reports on the action first-hand as it's happening.

PRIMARY SOURCE EXAMPLES:

- ✓ Speeches
- ✓ Letters/Diaries
- ✓ Newspaper Articles from the time
- ✓ Autobiographies
- ✓ Artifacts or Objects from the time
- ✓ Recordings
- ✓ Works of Art
- ✓ Novels, Poems, Music
- ✓ Photographs
- ✓ Eyewitness Accounts
- ✓ Oral Histories

* Some primary sources become secondary sources, depending on the context. If you are researching World War II, a poem describing the war but written & published in 2013 is a secondary source.

Secondary Sources

A secondary source is someone who writes a criticism or commentary on a topic/idea that they either did not create, were not present for, or were not reporting first-hand as it happened (written after it happened).

SECONDARY SOURCE EXAMPLES:

- ✓ Analysis of a Speech, Letter, Document, Artifact, Recording, or Work of Art
- ✓ Document (Book, Article, etc.) that talks about the original
- ✓ Artwork/Fiction that depicts an event (or time) from the past

* Here's a tricky one: If a writer references the contents of an undiscovered letter in a book, then the book is a **primary** source (if the research is about the contents of the letter). If the letter is found/discovered, the book becomes a **secondary** source and the letter becomes the **primary** source.

Is it a primary source or a secondary source? Check the appropriate box for each example given.

	Primary Source	Secondary Source
1. The Declaration of Independence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. "Jefferson Writes the Declaration of Independence" video clip on the History Channel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Audio recording of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. PBS.org's transcript of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Your history textbook	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. The Death of Marat painting by Jacques-Louis David, 1793 (for a study on the French Revolution)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. The Khan Academy's article about David's The Death of Marat painting and the French Revolution.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. The School of Athens painting by Raphael, 1509-1510 (for a study on Ancient Greece)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Transcript of NBC's live broadcast on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Katie Couric's Notebook article (dated Sept. 15, 2009) about her live broadcast on Sept. 11, 2001 on "The Today Show".	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>