

Secondary Sources



A secondary source is a text that includes the creator's analysis or interpretation of the topic. They are one step removed from having actual experience of the topic.

Most books about a topic are secondary sources, as is any analysis or interpretation of data such as statistics. Scholarly research and articles are secondary sources if they are written by people who did not have firsthand experience of the topic. Many documentaries are also secondary sources, though it is common for them to include primary sources such as photos, videos, newspaper articles, journal and diary entries, etc.

DIRECTIONS: Identify a secondary source of information related to each primary source identified below. The first one has been done for you.

PRIMARY SOURCE	SECONDARY SOURCE
The script for a Broadway play	Review of the play
a photograph	
a diary	
a poem	
a historical legal document	