Good Source of Information

Primary & Secondary Sources Guide

Use the guide questions below to help you determine if a source is considered primary or secondary.

Primary Source **-** an original document or a firsthand or eyewitness account of an event

Secondary Source **-** discusses information originally presented somewhere else. Secondary sources provide analysis, interpretation, or evaluation of the original information.

Question	Source 1	Source 2	Source 3	Source 4	Additional Source
Describe the type of source (letter, diary, record, photograph, map, etc.).					
What is the date or time period of source?					
Who is the author(s), if known?					
Describe the type of information found in this source (seasonal or daily activities, specific event, type of record, views or feelings).					
Determine why this source was created by answering the questions below. • How was the author involved? Was he/she a participant, observer, or other? Explain. • Was the author describing an eyewitness account, a secondhand account, a personal reaction, or other? What clues are					

given? If an event, how long between the event described and the recording of it? • Who was the intended audience? Was it for the public, a specific group, a specific person, or personal? How do you know?					
What information can you gather from the source?					
What facts are known about the author? Describe the author's point of view. Was the author trying to influence someone or something?					
What other sources might support the information in this source?					
What questions does this source raise for you? What, if any, information surprised you? Why?					
Do you believe this is a primary or secondary source? Explain your reasoning.					

Additional Research:

Using a search engine or database, find another primary or secondary source about this event in history and analyze it using the chart above. What new details did you discover? How do you know if your source is reliable and accurate?

- Upload the new source (or a link) you found to the Schoolspace Discussion Forum.
- Describe the source, but **do not** identify it as a primary or secondary source.

Homework:

Create your own **digital** primary source (diary entry, letter, photograph, video footage, recording, etc.) about your life outside of school. Keep your source anonymous (do not use your name or a picture of yourself). Upload your primary source to the SchoolSpace Drop Box. Tomorrow during class, it will be randomly distributed to another classmate. You will use the guide questions above to analyze your classmate's primary source and determine his/her identity.

Reflection Questions:

Responses must be written in paragraph form.
Students identified as Gifted in English/Language Arts should complete #2. All other students should complete #1.

1. What did you learn by analyzing the different sources? Describe when you would want to use primary versus secondary sources?

2. What type of primary source could replace Source 4 and still provide the same information? What questions were these four sources ***not*** able to answer about this tragic event? Describe the pros and cons of both primary and secondary sources.