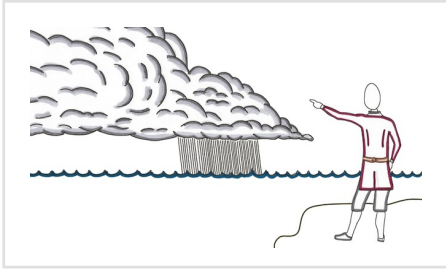


Lesson Plan

This lesson plan is designed to help you teach using a Common Craft video. Use the information below to introduce the video and then follow the video with discussion questions and other resources.



commoncraft.com/video/primary-and-secondary-sources

ACRL Info Literacy Frame:
Searching as Strategic Exploration

Primary and Secondary Sources

Explained by Common Craft

When researching, there are two common types of information sources: primary and secondary sources. Understanding the difference between them and how to use them can help make your projects more thorough and accurate.

Learning Outcomes

- Distinguish primary from secondary sources
- Explain the value of including primary sources in a research paper
- Explain the value of including secondary sources in a research paper

Discussion Questions

Q #1

Imagine that you are a witness to an important event. What factors could affect the accuracy of your account of the event?

Q #2

Are secondary sources more reliable than primary sources?

Knowledge Check Q&A

Q

What are two major kinds of sources to research and document events, places, and people who matter?

A

Primary and secondary sources.

Q

What is a primary source?

A

A primary source is a first-hand account of information. The account can be provided via memoirs, interviews, creative writing, scientific documents and more.

Q

What is a secondary source?

A

A secondary source provides documentation and analysis of primary sources and other relevant information after the fact.

Q

In what ways might a secondary source add value to a primary source?

A

First-hand accounts can be misleading or inconsistent on their own. A secondary source can analyze primary source information and uncover new facts and versions of the event.

Resources for Learning More

Ithaca College Library

“Primary and secondary sources”

<https://library.ithaca.edu/sp/subjects/primary>

American Library Association’s RUSA

“Primary Sources for Historical Research” 2015

<http://www.ala.org/rusa/sections/history/resources/primarysources>

Library of Congress

“Primary source sets”

<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/primarysourcesets/>

UWM Libraries

“Primary source citation guide”

<http://uwm.edu/marchonmilwaukee/citation-guide/>

University of British Columbia

“Secondary sources for historical research”

<http://www.history.ubc.ca/content/secondary-sources>

University of Albany Libraries

“Primary and secondary sources for science”

<http://library.albany.edu/infolit/prisci>