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.

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.
What is a secondary source?

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

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

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