WHAT IS A PRIMARY SOURCE?

- Firsthand, eye-witness account
- Written/produced during that time period
- Created by those who were:
  - Involved in event
  - Witnessed the event
### EXAMPLES OF PRIMARY SOURCES:

- Diary/Journal
- Autobiography
- Government Documents
- Letters
- Speeches
- Oral History
- Artifacts
- Advertisements
- Photographs
- Sculptures
- Songs and Plays
- Video of event
- Radio/TV Broadcasts
- Scientific Research
- Interviews
- Cartoons/Comics
- Tweets/Status Posts
USING PRIMARY SOURCES:

Benefits:
- Getting as close as possible
- Emotions/Details
- Make your own analysis
- More personal feel
- Unique perspective

Negatives:
- Errors or incomplete
- Biased
- Harder to find
- Harder to understand
  - Outdated vocabulary, language, etc.
WHAT IS A SECONDARY SOURCE?

- Account of an event from outsider
- Written/produced after that time period
- Analysis of primary sources
EXAMPLES OF SECONDARY SOURCES:

- Scholarly Journal
- Biography
- Commentary
- Critical Essays
- Reviews
- Analysis of Scientific Research
- Books that analyze information
  - i.e. Psychological effects on war prisoners
USING SECONDARY SOURCES:

**Benefits:**
- Analysis
- Different points of view
- May be more objective
- Background info
- Easier to find & read
- Info not available during event itself

**Negatives:**
- No firsthand knowledge
- Not as “exciting”
- Bias subtle - harder to detect
EVALUATING SOURCES:

Currency
Authority
Purpose

Relevance
Accuracy