**National History Fair Project**

**Primary vs Secondary Sources & the Annotated Bibliography**

![C:\Users\Carrie\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\WNLC0DFN\MC900437797[1].wmf]()**What is a Primary Source?**

Primary sources are original records of the political, economic, artistic, scientific, social, and intellectual thoughts and achievements of specific historical periods. Produced by the people who participated in and witnessed the past, primary sources offer a variety of points of view and perspectives of events, issues, people, and places. These records can be found any-where—in a home, a government archive, etc.—the important thing to remember is they were used or created by someone with firsthand experience of an event.

* A primary source is an original object or document; first-hand information.
* Primary source is material written or produced in the time period that you may be investigating.

**Examples of Primary Sources:**

-Diaries/ Memoirs -Autobiographies -Speeches -Historical Documents

-Letters -Newspaper/Magazine articles (as long as it is written at time of event)

-Orginal documents -legal agreements -treaties -maps (if made by person)

-Advertisements -Genealogical information -sermons/lectures

Primary sources are not just documents and written records. There are many different kinds of primary sources, including: first-person accounts, documents, physical artifacts, scientific data that has been collected but not interpreted, and face-to-face mentors with specific knowledge or expertise. Primary sources also take a variety of formats—examples of these are listed below.

* Audio—oral histories or memoirs, interviews, music
* Images— photographs, videos, film, fine art
* Objects—clothing (fashion or uniforms), tools, pottery, gravestones, inventions, weapons, memorabilia
* Statistics-census data, population statistics, weather records

**What is a SECONDARY SOURCE?**

Secondary sources are works of synthesis and interpretation based upon primary sources and the work of other authors. They may take a variety of forms. The authors of secondary sources develop their interpretations and narratives of events based on primary sources, that is, documents and other evidence created by participants or eyewitnesses. Frequently, they also take advantage of the work of other historians by using other secondary sources. For example, the author of the history textbook which you use in school probably did not use too many primary sources. Instead, textbook authors usually rely on secondary sources written by other historians. Given the wide range of topics covered by a typical textbook, textbook authors could not possibly find and use all the relevant primary sources themselves.

**Examples of Secondary Sources**

-Biographies -Newspaper/magazine articles (if written after event) -almanacs

![C:\Users\Carrie\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\WNLC0DFN\MC900390704[1].wmf]()-Encyclopedias -History Books (anything written after the fact)

**Think of it this way…**

If I tell you something, I am the primary source.

If you tell someone else what I told you, you are the secondary source.

**The Annotated Bibliography**

Where do I start?

Once you have found your first source, it’s time to get your annotated bibliography started. Keep your electronic bibliography handy at all times- you never know when you may need it!

**Now what?**

Each source you use MUST have an annotated bibliography card!

Step 1 Use an online citation maker to get your source correctly formatted using MLA.

* Easybib.com
* Citationmaker.com

Step 2 Annotate your source

* First sentence- Main idea of source… If someone was to ask you what it was about what would you tell them? “This source was used to show the per capital income of the United States during the Depression.”
* Second sentence- How you used it in your project. “I used this source to prove children became unhealthy as a result of the drop in per capita income.”

**Next….**

Enter your source into your Annotated Bibliography in a Word document. **ALWAYS separate your primary sources from the secondary sources!** *Bibliography example below.*

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