

Primary and Secondary Sources Check List

Remember: It is important to use a variety of sources in your research. This gives you multiple perspectives that will strengthen your claim and your credibility. Credibility is the **reliability** or **trustworthiness** that is important for the world's knowledge. Your research is credible when your sources follow the checklist below.

Ask Yourself: Am I using both primary and secondary sources? Am I using sources that come from the library, the Internet, the archives, Google scholar, etc.?

Primary Sources

- Is it a document, artifact, audio recording, video, photograph, or other type of source that provides a firsthand account or evidence of a person, place, event, or idea?
- Does your source show an **original** viewpoint?

Secondary Sources

- Is it a document or other type of source from an author not directly involved with/witness of the topic of a person, place, event, or idea?
- Does source show a later perspective or view point after the topic took place?

Scholarly Sources

- Did you find your source on a credible website (.edu, .gov, on JSTOR, Google Scholar, or other online journals), in a library, archive, or other credible source location?
- Was your source reviewed by a group of experts? Was it written for scholars and researchers?

Popular Sources

- Did you find your source on a website that ended with .com or .net? Was it in a magazine or as a web article or other non-academic/scholarly source location?
- Was your source written for the general public by someone not an expert?

