



**SEDU 183 Technology for Teaching and Learning
Edinboro University
Department of Middle & Secondary Education and
Educational Leadership**

Handout

What are Primary Sources?

Primary sources are first-hand documents and objects that were created at the time the events occurred. There are many forms of primary sources. The following are examples.

diaries letters reports photographs memos newspaper articles
maps broadcasts sheet music advertisements magazines
art e-mail interviews news film official records speeches

Why Use Primary Sources?

According to the Library of Congress, primary sources **engage students** by making the past real to them, **develop critical thinking skills** and **construct knowledge** when students grapple with contradictions, ask questions, and develop research strategies.

Where Are Primary Sources Located?

The Library of Congress provides numerous primary sources in its digital collections to enhance content in grades K-12. The table below has links to the Library of Congress resources for teachers.

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| <p style="text-align: center;">Using Primary Resource</p> <p style="text-align: center;">www.loc.gov/teachers/usingprimarysources/ Citing Primary Sources Copyright and Fair Use Teacher's Guides/Analysis Tool</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Finding Primary Sources</p> <p style="text-align: center;">www.loc.gov/teachers/usingprimarysources/finding Primary Source Sets Primary Sources by State Themed Resources</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Classroom Materials</p> <p style="text-align: center;">www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/ Lesson Plans Presentations/Activities Themed Resources Collection Connections</p> |

Sources from the Library of Congress are free. No login is required.

<http://loc.gov/teachers/>