



## Primary and Secondary Sources

### Primary Source

The term *primary source* refers to

- **Original documents:** Diaries, speeches, manuscripts, letters, interviews, news film footage, autobiographies, official records, etc.
- **Creative works:** Poetry, drama, novels, music, art, etc.

The primary source is the story, poems, or play you choose to write about. Please see the List of Literary Works to choose a primary source. The source must come from this list.

### Secondary Source

Secondary sources are publications like textbooks, magazine articles, histories, criticisms, commentaries, encyclopedias, etc. An appropriate secondary source to use for your literary analysis is a journal article that interprets and offers analysis of a literary work.

The two sources you locate must be academic sources and come from peer-reviewed journals or other scholarly publications. For information on finding sources within the Ashford Library, please view the ENG125 - Literature Research tutorial.