# Primary vs. Secondary Sources

**Primary**
- Information in original format allows us to see the past firsthand. Eye-witness account.
- Not published elsewhere, not interpreted
- Firsthand news accounts, lectures, publication of scientific study, original artwork, handwritten letters, a diary, emails, photographs, creative works, etc.
- Example: Anne Frank’s diary, journal article reporting new findings, pottery, or poetry

**Secondary**
- Secondary sources interpret and analyze primary sources. They are removed from the original event or work. They may use primary and secondary sources to complete the analysis.
- Second-hand information
- Text-books, magazine articles that interpret previous research or events, criticisms, encyclopedias, essays, reviews
- A review of the play *Wicked*, an article about global warming in *Time* magazine, etc.