

Research: Gathering & Using Information from Sources

Primary research, Secondary research & Documenting sources (MLA & APA styles)

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Significance



Significance

**Correct and
relevant
information**

**Readers'
approbation and
resonance**



**Credible
evidence and
support**

**Quality and
reliability of the
essay**



02

Types of Sources



Primary Source

A document, speech, or other sort of evidence written, created or otherwise produced during the time under study. Primary sources were present during an experience or time period and offer an inside view of a particular event. Some types of primary sources include:

ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS: (excerpts or translations acceptable): Diaries, speeches, manuscripts, letters, interviews, news film footage, autobiographies, official records .

CREATIVE WORKS: Poetry, drama, novels, music, art .

RELICS OR ARTIFACTS: Pottery, furniture, clothing, buildings.

Examples of primary sources include:

Diary of Anne Frank - Experiences of a Jewish family during WWII

The Declaration of Independence – U.S. History

African-American Poetry (1750-1900) – U.S. History and Literature



Secondary Source



A secondary source interprets and analyzes primary sources. These sources are one or more steps removed from the event. Secondary sources may have pictures, quotes or graphics of primary sources in them.

Some types of secondary sources include:

PUBLICATIONS: Textbooks, magazine articles, histories, criticisms, commentaries, encyclopedias.

Examples of secondary sources include:

A journal/magazine article which interprets or reviews previous findings

A history textbook

A book about the effects of economic crisis, for example

Tertiary Source

Tertiary sources consist of information which is a distillation and collection of primary and secondary sources.

Almanacs;

Bibliographies (also considered secondary);

Chronologies;

Dictionaries and Encyclopedias (also considered secondary);

Directories;

Fact books;

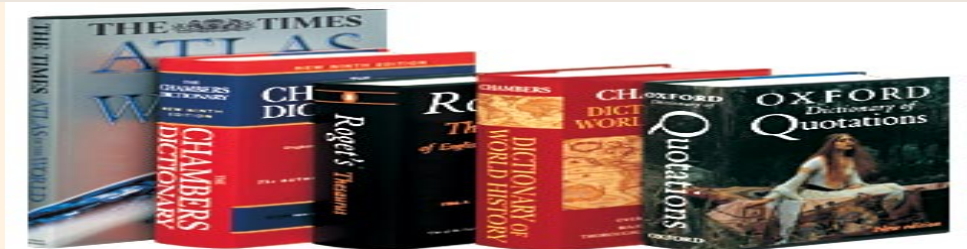
Guidebooks;

Indexes, abstracts, bibliographies used to locate primary and secondary sources;

Manuals;

Textbooks (also be secondary).

When citing a primary document found within a tertiary source, you must follow formatting guidelines for citing a source within a source.



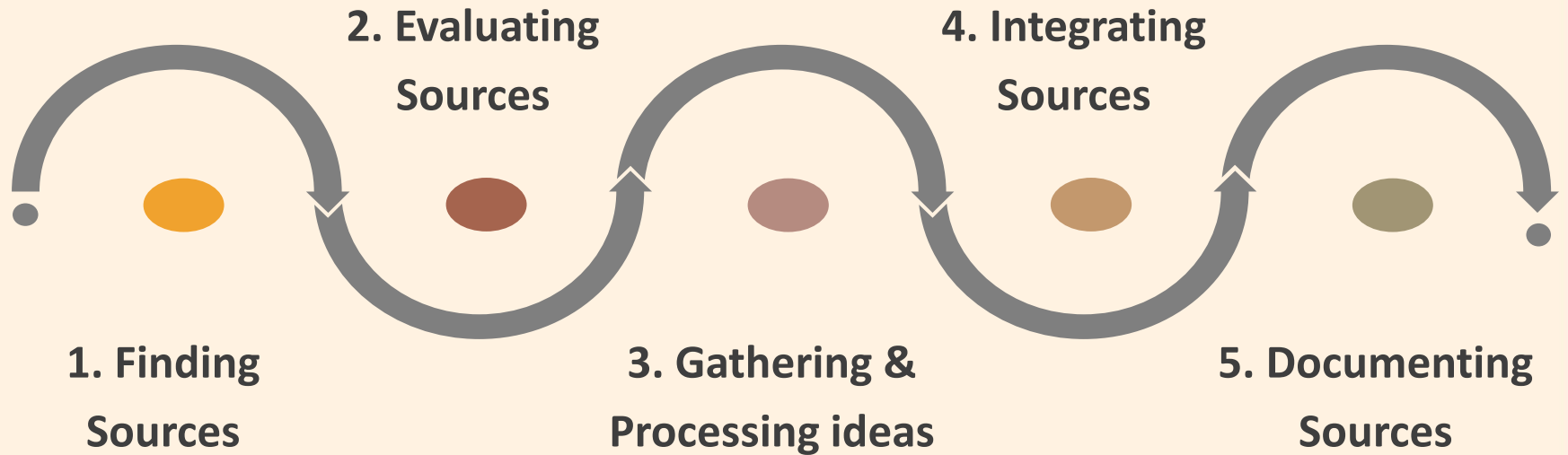
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Strategies



Major Steps in Using Sources



Finding Sources

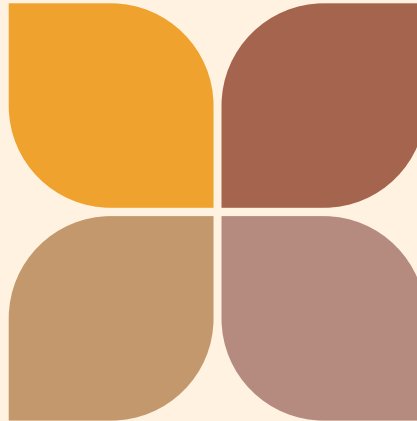
The library:

Author search, title search,
subject search, or keyword
search...

E.g. School's library, EBSCOhost...

Other paths:

Books, magazines, journals,
newspapers, government
docs, reference books,
audiovisual materials...



The internet:

Do not use Wikipedia, Facebook,
or any social media as a source.

E.g. Website ends with “edu,”
“gov,” or “org” is ideal.

Sources **shouldn't**
replace other means
of support: allusions,
scenarios, appeals...



Quick Evaluating of the Sources

Reliability
requires verifiable
information.

Timeliness:
current information is
better than old
information.

STEP 01

STEP 02

STEP 03

STEP 04

STEP 05

Relevance to the
writer's topic.

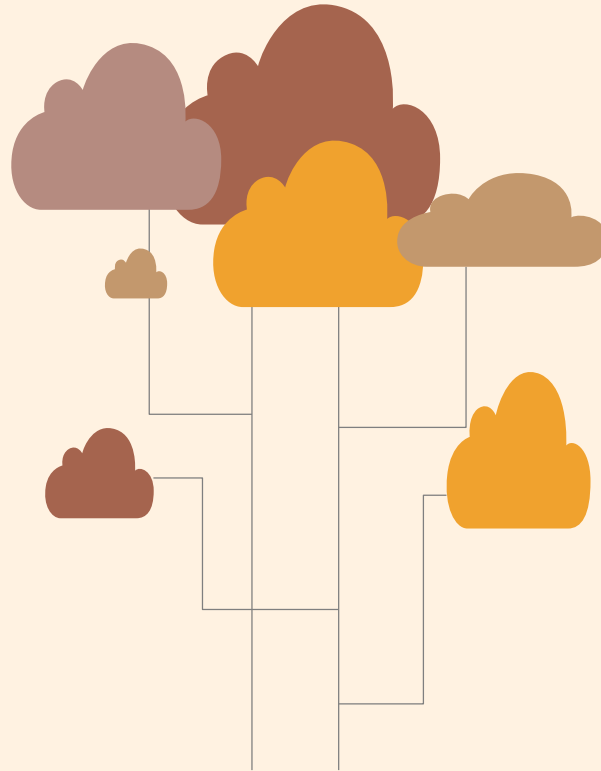
Credibility means
a source doesn't
attempt to hide its
biases or its argument.

Diversity suggests
writers should use
varieties of sources.

Gathering & Processing Ideas from Sources

Remain open to ideas and collect those that not only confirm your opinions but also extend or even oppose your perspective.

Pay attention on the page number, the authors' names, dates, examples...



Look for information that help to:

Explain the complexities of your subject;

Explain the history;

Support your position;

Display claims that are different from yours;

Support the opposite position...



Integrating Ideas from Sources



01

Paraphrased – expressed in your own words. It's not merely changing a word or two, or shifting around sentence parts.

02

Summarized – expressed in your own words with fewer details. Use to illustrate a point and then move on to another idea.

03

Quoted (most recommended) – repeated exactly from the source. Caution to the in-text citation format.

04

In your writing, remember to **introduce** and **explain** the information you gathered.



Documenting Sources – MLA or APA? Instructor's Requirements Come First

An **in-text citation** must occur whenever a writer:

- Quotes directly from a source.
- Paraphrases ideas from a source.
- Summarizes ideas from a source.
- References statistics or data from a source.

List **all the sources** a writer has read or digested in the end:

- MLA – Works Cited
- APA – References



Standard Abbreviations

MLA	APA	
ed.	Ed.	=Editor or edited by
eds.	Eds.	=Editors
n.d.	n.d.	=No date
n.p.	n.p.	=No publisher/place
trans.	Trans.	=Translator
p.	p.	=Page Number
no.	No.	=Number
pars.	para.	=Paragraphs
vol.	Vol.	=Volume

For more details,

MLA - https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_general_format.html

APA - https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/general_format.html



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Success Check



Did You Find a Strong Source?



CURRENCY ~ When was it created, published, or posted? Is it current enough?

RELEVANCE ~ Is the information appropriate? Is it credible? Who is the intended audience?

AUTHORITY ~ Who created this? What are their credentials/experiences that qualifies them?

PURPOSE ~ What are its intentions? Facts to inform, opinions to sway, propaganda to incite, hearsay to gossip, or first-hand experiences to preserve memories?



Is Your Source Reliable?



Ask these questions to properly vet your sources:

- **WHO** ~ who is the originator of the source?
- **WHAT** ~ what kind of a document is it?
- **WHEN** ~ when was it created? historical context
- **WHERE** ~ where was it originated? provenance
- **WHY** ~ why was it created? its purpose
- **HOW** ~ how did it impact its intended audience?
- **HOW MANY** ~ when applicable, i.e., info repeated, how often...

Reliable sources normally can answer the who, what, when, where and why. Self-Media platforms' information is NOT reliable.





You have to give credit where credit is due.

Thank you.

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