

SECONDARY SOURCES

The term Secondary Source refers to any material, data, evidence, or information which you use (or appropriate) which is not your own.

Secondary Sources include:

Books
Articles
Reviews
Abstracts
Images
Films
Audio Clips
Blogs
Government Publications
Pamphlets
Dissertations/Theses
Information from Radio or Television
Letters
Lectures

Secondary sources, when appropriately chose, come from experts, scholars, and professional commentators. Secondary sources are useful, since secondary sources are regarded as a form of testimony (a form of natural support).

We use secondary sources to help to insure our ideas are valid, truthful, and well-supported by borrowing information from these sources and using it in our papers.

THREE WAYS TO BORROW INFORMATION

We can use secondary sources to construct three structures:

- 1) Quotes from the original source (again, a form of testimony)
- 2) Paraphrases of the original source
- 3) Parenthetical Summaries of the original source (less than a paragraph)

These three structures help our readers to have additional support for our claims, as well have the information needed find our original sources. Therefore, it is useful to have secondary sources.

ALWAYS USE A CITATION

Every time an individual uses a secondary source, he/she must also make sure to use a source documentation system. Source documentation systems help people who read your work to find the original sources of information. Source documentation systems make use of parenthetical citations after the summary, quote, or paraphrase, and include a bibliographic citation for the source at the end of the paper.

Remember: Never ever use quotations, paraphrases, or parenthetical summaries back to back, or on top of each other, or next to each other. This usage offers an instructor a clear indication that you are not doing as much work as you are supposed to be doing. So, make sure to include commentary following your use of borrowed material.