Primary, secondary, and tertiary sources explained

*Note: Sometimes a source can be more than one type!*

**Primary**
- Original documents
- Historical or legal documents
- Eyewitness accounts
- Raw data or material
- Empirical studies
- Statistical data
- Original art objects
- Blog posts by the author

**Example:**
Steve Jobs - Stanford Commencement Speech
June 12, 2005 (video & transcript)

**Secondary**
- A secondary source is something written about a primary source
- Comments on something
- Evaluations of someone else’s work
- Reviews of books or articles
- Interpretations
- Second-hand information
- Newspaper or magazine articles

**Example:**
Newspaper article from the *Oakland Tribune*, by Lisa Krieger, published October 9, 2011, titled “For Stanford grads, Jobs’ commencement speech was life-changing.”

**Tertiary**
- Other types of sources that provide an overview or basic information on a topic
- Encyclopedia entries
- Wikipedia information
- Chapters in a text book
- Combinations of sources listed above

**Example:**
Steve Jobs’ biography page on Wikipedia