Sources are those informational readings or visuals that tell a story about a certain person, place, or thing.

A primary source is an account of an event by a participant or eyewitness at the time. While often in written form, primary sources may take other forms such as works of art, scientific or sociological data, archeological artifacts, or official government proceedings.

Examples of primary sources include:

diaries, letters, memoirs, autobiographies  
interviews, speeches, oral histories, personal narratives

works of art, photographs, music, or literature  
archeological artifacts  
legal cases, hearings, laws, official government documents and reports  
period newspaper and magazine articles

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:

Examples of secondary sources include:

textbooks

magazine articles

criticisms and commentaries

encyclopedias

journal/magazine article which interprets or reviews previous findings

**Directions**

You and the members of your groups will examine primary and secondary sources on 9-11 that are positioned at different stations around the room. You will then choose one source to examine more closely, writing information about this source on the document analysis sheet. You may choose to evaluate more than one source and it may or may not be the same source that others in your group are writing about.

**Station One: Personal Narratives (Stories)**

|  |
| --- |
| Who is telling this story? |
| What is this story generally about? |
| What powerful words and ideas are expressed in this story? |
| What feelings and thoughts does this person’s story trigger in you? |
| What questions would you like to ask this individual? |

**Station Two: Photographs**

|  |
| --- |
| What is in this photograph? List people, objects, and activities found in the picture. |
| What story does this photograph tell? |
| What powerful images are used? |
| What message is this picture meant to convey? |
| What questions does the photograph raise? |

**Station Three: Official Policies**

|  |
| --- |
| What type of document is this and who wrote it? |
| What is this document generally about? |
| What powerful words and ideas are expressed? |
| What action is being proposed by this policy? |
| What questions does this policy raise? |

**Station Four: Biographies**

|  |
| --- |
| Who is this biography about? |
| What connection does this individual have to 9-11? |
| How important was this individual in what happened on 9-11 or in its aftermath? Why? |
| What questions would you like to ask this individual? |