Digital Age

PRIMARY VS SECONDARY

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

QUESTIONS DIGITAL DETECTIVES ASK BEFORE TRUSTING OR SHARING INFORMATION.

1

PRIMARY SOURCES

Historically, primary sources referred only to information that was created by someone who was present at the time of the event, like a diary kept by a soldier during a war. In the digital age, however, the term primary source can also be used to describe the original creator of content that was posted online.

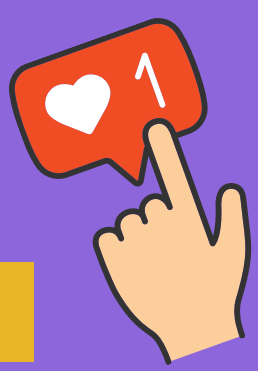
DIGITAL AGE EXAMPLES:

- Original articles written by journalists covering an event.
- Original content posted on social media. This could include (but is not limited to):
  - Videos, images or blog posts.

QUESTIONS TO ASK:

- Did the person who is sharing this also create it?
- Can I trace this information back to a single source?

2



SECONDARY SOURCES

In the digital age, secondary sources refer to information that is being shared by someone who did not create it. These posts may also include the secondary source's commentary or opinions.

DIGITAL AGE EXAMPLES:

- Meme accounts on social media.
- Shares, retweets, remixes or reposts of content on social media.
- Links to content that could include, but is not limited to:
  - News stories, videos, images or blog posts.

QUESTIONS TO ASK:

- Did the person who is sharing this also create it?
- Can I be certain that the person posting this verified its accuracy?
- How do I know the person sharing this information? Does my relationship with/to them affect my urge to trust or share this information?

This resource was created by Jennifer LaGarde and Darren Hudgins