



# WRITING A RESEARCH PAPER

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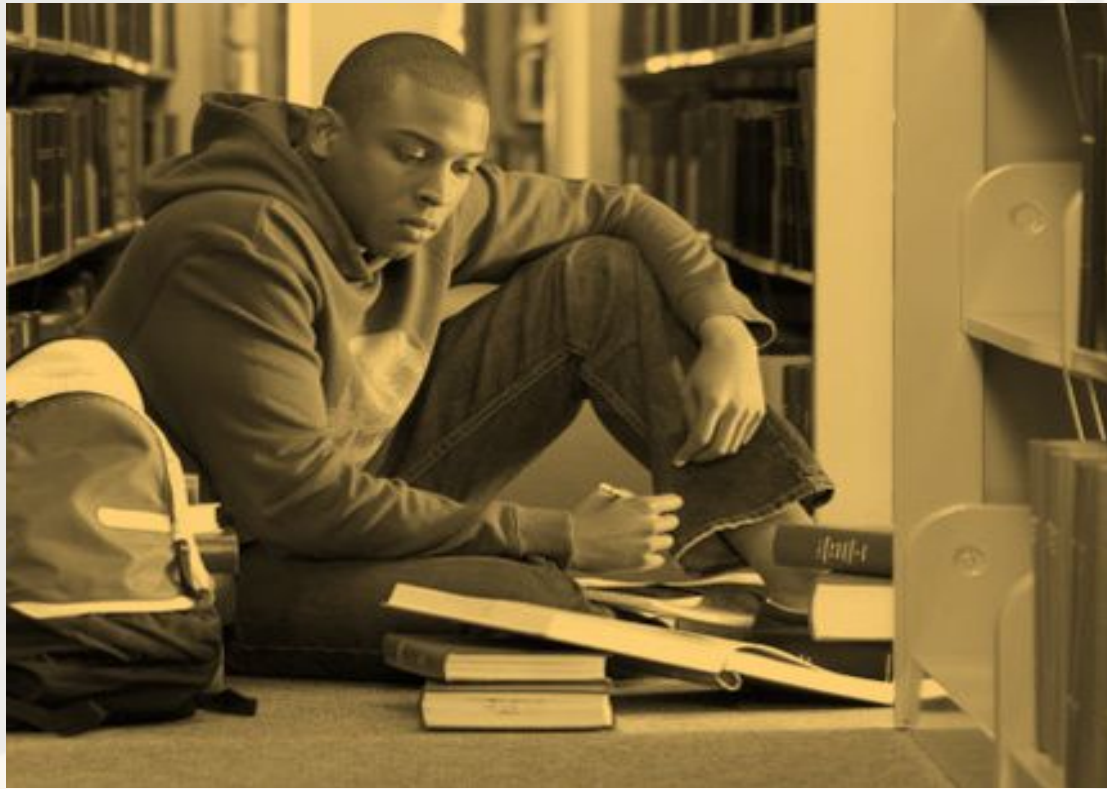
# Objective

In this workshop, participants will learn research writing concepts and steps to begin the process of starting a research paper.

Some information was pulled from OWL at Purdue

[https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general\\_writing/common\\_writing\\_assignments/research\\_papers/index.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/common_writing_assignments/research_papers/index.html)

# Steps to Begin



Genre: Types of Research Papers



Choosing a Topic



Determining Audience



Types of Sources



# What Research is...

1.

an involved process of research, critical thinking, source evaluation, organization, and composition

2.

a growing and changing process

3.

investigating and evaluating sources to draw on what others have to say and to thoughtfully offer a unique perspective on the issue

4.

an exceptional opportunity for you to increase your knowledge in your field of study

5.

another opportunity to further the field in which it is written

# What Research is **NOT**...

**1.**

a summary, a book report, an opinion piece

**2.**

an expository essay solely of one's interpretation of a text nor an overview of a topic

**3.**

an unconscious regurgitation of information from primary and secondary sources

**4.**

a process that can be done the week or night before it is due

# Types of Research Papers

- Argumentative
- Analytical



# Argumentative

- Goal: to persuade your audience that your stance is viable or valid
- Thesis must be controversial and debatable
- Needs to be supported by primary and secondary sources





# Argumentative

- Research a common topic from an uncommon perspective.

## EXAMPLE

Thesis 1:

*Some people believe global warming is a myth.*

Better thesis:

*Although many theories have been offered to show that global warming is a real phenomena that poses a significant threat to Earth's oceans, glaciers, and weather, some consider this to be a natural phase in Earth's existence and that global warming is only a myth.*





# Argumentative

## EXAMPLE

Thesis 1:

*Universal health care will be detrimental to the United States economy.*

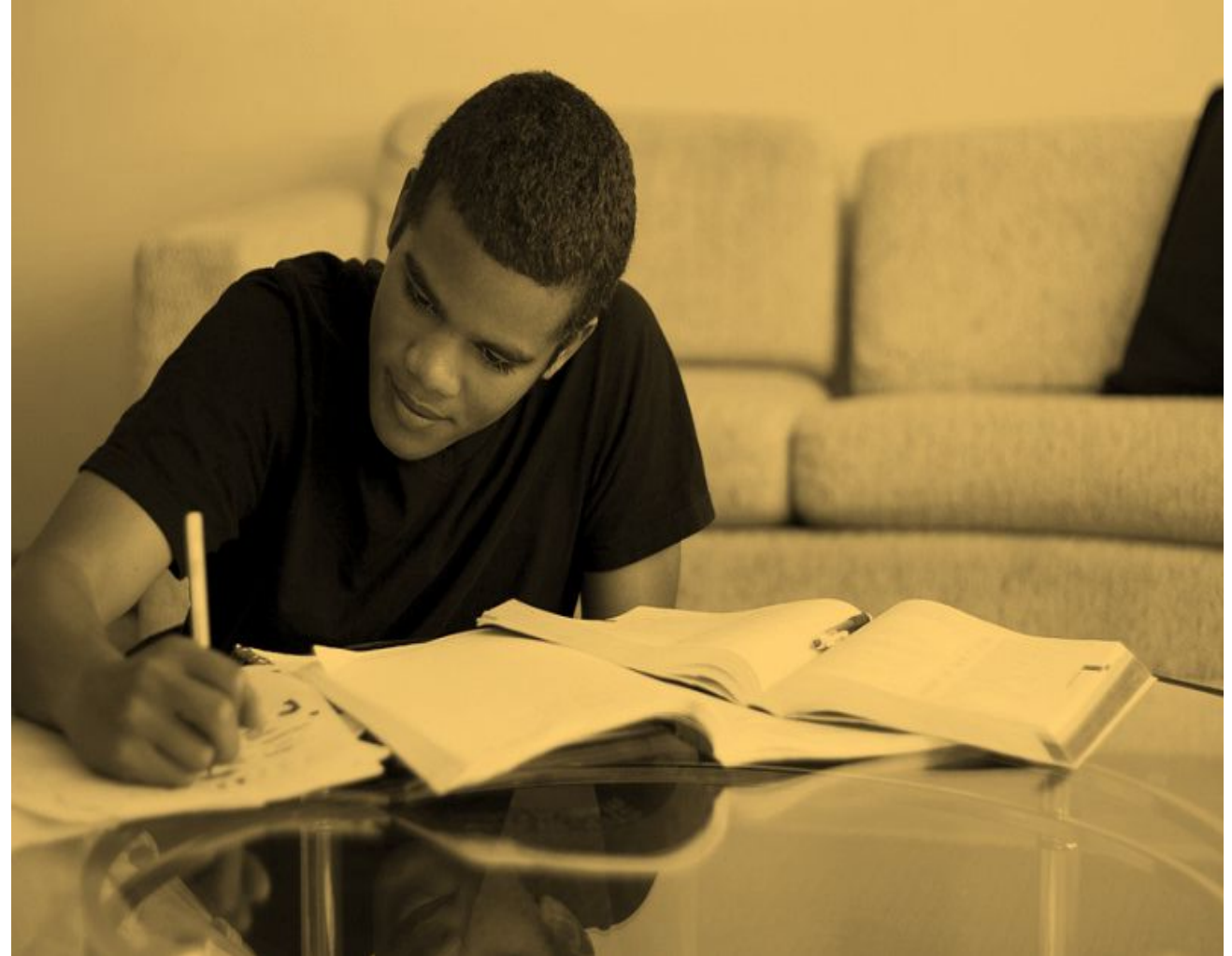
Better thesis:

*Other countries like Canada offer universal health care, and while it has progressed, not without its troubles, Congress needs to put a hold on initiating the same system in the US.*



# Analytical

- Goal: to explore and evaluate a topic or issue
- Start with a research question
- Thesis should state your own critical interpretation; a fresh approach to the topic/issue
- Needs to be supported by primary and secondary sources





# Analytical

- Start with a research question
- Did the cultural arts of the Harlem Renaissance period make an impact only on New York's urban scene?

## EXAMPLE

Thesis 1:

***The Harlem Renaissance's impact expanded across the American West beyond New York's borders.***

Better thesis:

***Not only did African American cultural arts make an impact in Harlem, New York, Black artists in urban cities across the American West reflected and represented the themes and ideas associated with the Harlem Renaissance and impacted the broader and racial developments of that period.***





# Topic and Audience

- Your initial topic that you come up with may not be the exact topic about which you end up writing
- Your objective in writing a research paper is to add something fresh and unique to the academic community
- As you increase your involvement in your field of study, your understanding of your audience will grow as well
- To assist with getting started on your research topic, consider who in your audience you want to reach

...consider these questions



# Thinking About Audience

## Question 1

Who is most likely to be interested in the research I am doing?

## Question 2

What is it about my topic that interests the general audience I have discerned?

## Question 3

What should I do to spark the attention of those who may not be interested in my topic?

## Question 4

Will each member of the audience agree with what I have to say?

## Question 5

If not (which will likely be the case!), what counter-arguments should I be prepared to answer?



## So.....where do I begin?

- Start with writing a research question
- Begin locating sources related to your question
- Read a few summaries and abstracts
- Revise your research question that focuses on the area you want to pursue
- Continue to research additional sources
- Once again, this cannot be done in one night nor in one week!



# The Research



Types of Sources



Scholarly



Popular



# Scholarly sources

- are written by highly-qualified researchers
- are peer-reviewed by a panel of scholars
- possess an extensive list of references
- have a specific audience in mind; experts in the particular field of study

## Examples

- books
- academic journals written by scholars and experts



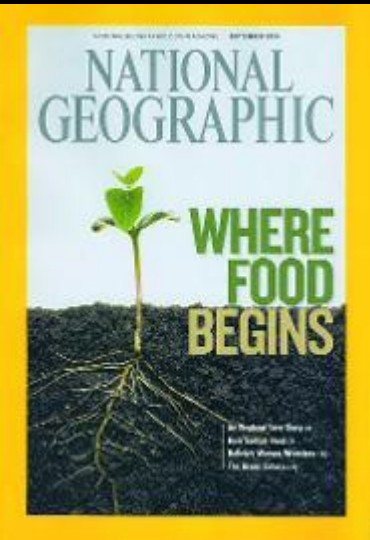
# Popular sources

- are written by and intended for general audiences
- are not peer-reviewed
- do not usually include a reference list

## Examples

- some books
- magazines
- websites
- blogs





WHICH ARE SCHOLARLY?  
WHICH ARE POPULAR?



# The Research



Types of Sources



Primary



Secondary

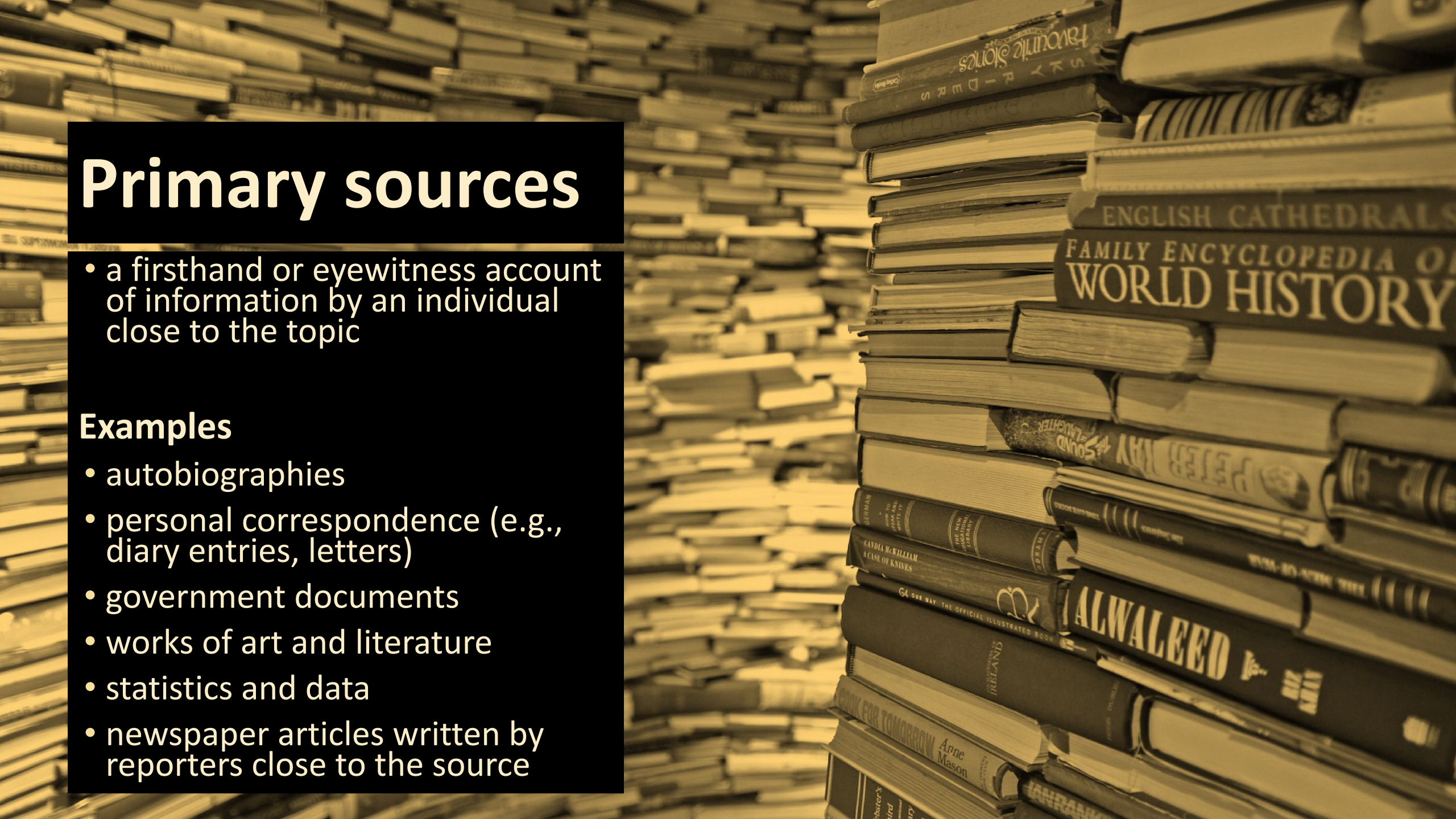


# Primary sources

- a firsthand or eyewitness account of information by an individual close to the topic

## Examples

- autobiographies
- personal correspondence (e.g., diary entries, letters)
- government documents
- works of art and literature
- statistics and data
- newspaper articles written by reporters close to the source





# Secondary sources

- a source that is more removed from an event
- usually written after the event has happened

## Examples

- biographies
- interpretation of statistics and data
- anything written after an historical event
- analyzing something that already happened (e.g., a work of art from 100 years ago)





# REVIEW

- There is no template nor shortcut for writing a research paper
- The process requires practice, experience, and organization
- You must become skilled in researching, outlining, drafting, and revising
- Once again, this cannot be done in one night nor in one week!





# Reflection

Student Workshop Evaluation

Faculty Workshop Evaluation



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