

| Type of Document | Origin | Purpose | Value | Limitation |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| Diary | Primary, by author for author, rarely published | To keep memories for later, sometimes with eye to publication | Eyewitness to event and usually written immediately or shortly after occurred, rarely lie to oneself | Only one person's view, there will be perspective issues, may be intended for publication therefore can even lie to oneself |
| Reminiscence | Primary, by author or interviewee for interviewer and often general public | To offer an eyewitnesses' perspective no event | Eyewitness | Length of time between events and recollection can lead to loss of information, or changing of story, always perspective issues to be considered |
| Monograph (a scholarly article, paper, or book on a single topic) | Generally Secondary, Usually by expert (often academic historian) | To educate colleagues, students and public | Usually many years of primary research in archives and thorough knowledge of secondary works on topic | Always perspective issues, usually not an eyewitness, can err deliberately or accidentally, not very useful for quick overview of topic s |
| General Text | Secondary, usually done by panel of experts on country or topic | To educate students | Offers quick overview for student seeking easy information | Usually NOT an expert on every topic in text so there are often gaps and errors, not very useful for writing monographs since too brief |
| Cartoon | Primary, done by artist for public at time | To educate entertain, and often sell newspapers or journals | Offers at least on person's perspective on issue of the time | Don't know how widespread that perspective is, often exaggeration used for comic effect |
| Speech | Primary | Usually for public use | Offers official view of speaker, it is what audience hears | May not be real views of speaker, speeches are designed to sway opinion |
| Internal Memo | Primary | For internal examination amongst officials of government departments | Usually do not lie, so it is official view like a speech but private thoughts often given too much information | Do not know what outsiders' know, only what officials are saying to each other, may lie occasionally to get way |