

## A PRIMARY SOURCE VS. A SECONDARY SOURCE

Using your homework assignment and the handout given to you to read, compare what you wrote about the Boston Massacre and what the document says about the Boston Massacre. Make a list of what they both say that is similar and make a list of what they say that is different.

The SIMILARITIES between your account and the document	The DIFFERENCES between your account and the document

**Review Questions:**

1. Which account do you think was better, yours or the handout? Explain.

---

---

2. Which account is a primary source document and which is a secondary source document?

---

---

3. Which do you think is better, a primary source or a secondary source? Explain.

---

---

Based on what you have done so far, write a definition for each:

A primary source document is

---

A secondary source document is

---

Circle the items you think are a primary source and draw a rectangle around what you consider a secondary source. Place a question mark on the items you are unsure about.

Newspaper	Diary	Book	Poster	Painting	Clock
Clothing	Furniture	Bones	Letters	History Book	Map

Choose three of the above items and explain why all three are primary sources.

---

---

Choose three of the above items and explain why all three are secondary sources.

---

---

Are there any items that can be both? Explain.

---

---

**Lesson 2**  
**Handout**

*Eye Witness Accounts*  
*of the Boston Massacre*

**Jane Whitehouse**

I live nigh the Centinel. Heard a noise. Went out. Ask'd the Centinel whats the matter. He didn't know. Some people came and said there's the Centinel, the bloody back Rascall, let's go kill him. They kept gathering throwing Snow balls, Oyster Shells and chunks of Wood at the Centinel. Beat him from out of his Box to the steps. A space after saw a party coming from the Main Guard, an Officer which proved to be Capt. Preston with them. He desired his Men to halt and the Centinel to recover his Arm, fall into his Rank and march up to the Main Guard. The Centinel fell in and the men wanted to move forward to the Guard house but could not for the Riot. The people called out fire, damn you why don't you fire, you cant kill us. I steppd to the Party. Heard a Gentleman ask the Capt. if he was going to order his men to fire. He said no Sir by no means, by no means. A Man—the Centinel—then pushed me back. I step'd back to the corner. He bid me go away for I should be killed. A Man came behind the Soldiers walkd backwards and forwards, encouraging them to fire. The Captain stood on the left about three yards. The man touched one of the Soldiers upon the back and said fire, by God I'll stand by you. He was dressed in dark coloured Cloaths. I don't remember he had a Surtout or any lace about him. He did not look like an Officer. The man fired directly on the word and clap on the Shoulder. I am positive the man was not the Captain. My attention was fixed on him, for the people said there's the Officer damn him lets kill him. I am sure he gave no orders. I saw the People throw at them. I saw one man take a chunk of wood from under his Coat, throw at a Soldier and knocked him. He fell on his face. His firelock out of his hand. Near the little run of water by the Sentry box. He was the right hand Soldier. This was before any firing. The man recovered himself and took up his firelock. The chunk was thrown a few minutes before the man clap'd the Soldier on the back. The second gun went off about a minute after the first. I didn't hear any body say fire between the first and second Gun.

**James Woodall**

I came into King Street, saw a great number of People there and a party of Soldiers and an Officer at the Main guard and followed them to the Custom house. The Sentry box was in the Gutter and the Centinel fell in with the Soldiers. They were drawn up. I saw one Soldier knock'd down. His Gun fell from him. I saw a great many sticks and pieces of sticks and Ice thrown at the Soldiers. The Soldier who was knock'd down took up his Gun and fired directly. Soon after the first Gun I saw a Gentleman behind the Soldiers in velvet or blue or black plush trimd with gold. He put his hand towards their backs. Whether he touched them I know not and said by God I'll stand by you whilst I have a drop of blood and then said fire and two went off and then the rest to 7 or 8. I stood between Capt. Preston and the Lane. The Captain, after, seemed shocked and looked upon the Soldiers. I am very certain he did not give the word fire. I did not hear the word but once till after all the firing. They said 'twas only Powder and bid them fire. I saw one Person speak to the

Captain when the first gun was fired. The people at the time of firing were about 4 yards distant. The Soldiers were in a single rank. The Gentleman behind had a Wigg.

L. Kinvin Wroth and Hiller B. Zobel, ed., *The Legal Papers of John Adams*, 3 vols. (Cambridge, Mass.: Belknap Press of Harvard Univ. Press, 1965), 3: 75-78.