Primary texts are original documents such as letters, diaries, legislative bills, laboratory studies, field research reports, and eyewitness accounts.

Secondary sources are commentaries on primary texts or the topic the text examines -- another person's opinions about or interpretation of a primary text or topic.

The goal of the essay is to use a secondary source to provide the background for an argument about the primary text (the documentary film, Waste Land).

Basic Film Analysis
Film is composed of two basic elements: sight and sound
Evidence may come in two forms: description and quotation
Description of film elements like setting, costume, soundtrack, sound effects
Quotation of dialogue, song lyrics or language shown on screen

Waste Land (Walker, et al.)
A documentary film that operates like an essay for a science experiment
It has an Introductory section with an opening, formal introduction and thesis
Opening: a clip from a late-night program, similar to late-night shows in the US
   The host asks why Vik Muniz uses trash in his latest art project
Introduction
   Of Vik Muniz as a successful artist
   And his new project
(hypo)Thesis: "Can art change people? And what would be the effects?" (:09)
   Muniz wants "to be able to change the lives of a group of people
   with the same material they deal with every day."
Meaning: Transformation is the work of art
   According to Muniz: "Taking people away -- even if it’s for a few minutes --
   away from their world and showing them another world, another place,
even if it's a place from which they can look at where they are. It changes
everything."
   In response to Muniz's question of feasibility of the project, Fabio, Muniz's art
director in Rio, argues, "[I]t would be harder to think that we are not able
to change the li[ves] of these people"

The second section of the film is expository in nature
   Muniz (and the viewer) learns about the Jardim Gramacho (:12)
   the recycling effort
   and the catadores who work there

The third section of the documentary is analytical
   Its goal is to show evidence of change
   Vik explains that art is transformational, literally (:54)
   Tiao has a magical moment of personal change at art auction (1:16)

Sample Analysis (basic outline)
   Topic Sentence: At the end of the film, Vik Muniz is appreciative of the trash
   pickers.
   Evidence: Muniz says, "I would rather have nothing and want something rather
   than have everything and want nothing" (Waste Land).
   Analysis
      Explanation
         Content: Muniz wants the satisfaction with starting at the bottom
         and working his way to the top instead of already being at
         Context: Muniz is content now.
      Judgment: In the beginning of the movie, Muniz thought about the people
         as the lowest of the low, but at the end of the movie, he loves the
         catadores. He's humbled by his experience, and would prefer to
         live as a picker than as the artist.
Sample Analysis (drafted paragraph):

At the end of the film, Vik Muniz is more appreciative of the trash pickers. He says, "I would rather have nothing and want something rather than have everything and want nothing" *(Waste Land)*. He misses the satisfaction of starting at the bottom and working his way to the top instead of already being a success. Although Muniz is content now, he admires the ambition, drive and lust for life that he sees in the catadores. In the beginning of the movie, Muniz thought about the people as the lowest of the low, but by the end, he loves them. Muniz is humbled by his experience and would even prefer to live as a low-class picker with real pride in his work than an upper-class artist with only material wealth to show for his efforts.