How to Identify a Primary Source Research Article

This handout is meant to be used as a guide in identifying the appropriate source for your Controversial Issue Article Critique. Some of the language used in primary source articles may differ slightly but this guide should help make it obvious that you are looking at original research.

Label each of the following in your article:

- **Abstract** – The abstract is a summary of the article which generally states if it is a study and if so, what is expected to be measured.

- **Introduction/Overview** – Provides background and motivation for the study and includes the question or problem that was addressed. In some cases the literature review is included in this section of the article.

- **Literature Review** – Reviews previous research on the topic that might inform this study. Generally discusses what this study will contribute to this body of research.

- **Methods**
  - Participants in the study.
  - Dependent and independent variables.
  - Tests, instruments, or questionnaires used in study.
  - Describes any special equipment or situations used in study.
  - Procedures followed in the study.

- **Results/Analysis** - Includes the data gathered through the study including tables and figures.

- **Discussion/Conclusion** – Discusses if further research must be done to adequately answer the problem. Restates the problem and reports on major findings and any limitations of the study.