Joseph Bizup speaks to the problem of the primary/secondary/tertiary system of classifying sources: “The standard classifications are not absolute but relative. Change a researcher's focus and you potentially change the classification of the researcher's sources as well.” He quotes Booth et al.: “If a researcher quoted your research report to support his argument, your report would be his secondary source. If, on the other hand, he were writing your biography, your paper would be a primary source.”

In response, Bizup proposes a new terminology:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kind of Source</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
<th>Example from Sociology</th>
<th>Example from your Field:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **B** Background Sources | Any source used in a paper to provide context or background; cited information is regarded as non-controversial | How does gender socialization impact college-age drinking behavior and attitudes? | • Current statistics on college-age drinking  
• Recent newsmagazine story on binge drinking  
• Recent popular articles on gender socialization |
| **E** Exhibit or Evidence Sources | Documents, data, field/lab observations, visual images, or other artifacts/objects that the writer analyzes; particulars from the "exhibit" are evidence within your argument | | • Questionnaire data, interview transcriptions, or observations regarding drinking behavior and gender socialization  
• (Researcher must design study, create questionnaire, code focus group data, do statistical analysis) |
| **A** Argument Sources | The conversation of critical views and relevant scholarship that you are joining  
• Usually argument sources are other scholarly articles or papers  
• In sciences, often constitutes the “review of the literature” | | • Literature review summarizes previous scholarly studies on college-age drinking and/or on gender socialization as potentially related to college-age drinking  
• Goal is to show what is still unknown or unresolved |
| **M** Method or Theory Sources | References to the theories or methods the writer is employing (sometimes implicit but often explicit) | | • References to competing sociological theorists  
• Competing methodologies for conducting this research |