<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Important Sources</th>
<th>Argument</th>
<th>Conclusions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Sissela Bok** - *Secrets: On the Ethics of Concealment and Revelation*. (1989) Bok gives the most compelling argument on both sides of the transparency debate. She offers a resounding and relentless attack on secrecy and its dangers. She offers valid counterarguments, noting that full transparency is neither good nor necessary. | **SECRECY’S EFFECTS**  
**Corruption:** Too much secrecy leads to practices like bribery.  
**The public’s distrust:** When the public no longer trusts the government, it turns to rash actions in order to get the information it needs.  
**Deliberations are compromised:** Corporate interests may have undue influence on legislative processes.  
**TRANSPARENCY’S PROBLEMS**  
**Slows down processes:** If government has to discuss its every move, nothing would get done or it would take too much time.  
**Debates are sensationalized:** Legislators and officials will make arguments to move the public, not to make policies or laws better.  
**National security:** When all is said and done, only the government knows which information is truly dangerous.  
*Good governance is a balance between secrecy and transparency.*  
*Transparency should be the rule, not the exception.* | Transparency and secrecy will always be in tension with each other in government because they are both necessary for effective and just governance.  
**Transparency** is needed for the public to be able to participate in lawmakers and policy making, which helps make laws and policies better for society.  
**Secrecy** is needed to protect national security and for ease of administration. Both of these values can be abused, but secrecy’s limited justifiable application makes transparency the better choice in many governmental processes like legislation and policymaking.  
- Too much transparency leads to a crippled government and a distracted legislature.  
- Too much secrecy compromises the public’s trust, and inevitably leads to corruption. |
| **Amitai Etzioni** - “Is Transparency the Best Disinfectant?” *J. of Pol. Philosophy* (2010) Etzioni argues that transparency is overvalued. He says that transparency is not the only answer to secrecy-related problems, noting the need for government regulation. He worries that some may not even understand the information that is released. |  |  |
| **Matt Leihninger** “Citizenship and Governance in a Wild, Wired World: How Should Citizens and Public Managers Use Online Tools to Improve Democracy?” *National Civic Review* (2011) Leihninger argues that the Internet solves many of transparency’s issues and has contributed to a more informed public. Legislators need to use it to make government more participatory. |  |  |