



Scholarly Journals v. Popular Magazine Articles

Characteristics	Scholarly	Popular
How can you tell the difference between these two types of periodical articles?		
Length	Longer articles, providing in-depth analysis of topics	Shorter articles, providing broader overviews of topics
Authorship	Author usually an expert or specialist in the field, name and credentials always provided	Author usually a staff writer or a journalist, name and credentials often not provided
Language/Audience	Written in the language of the field for scholarly readers (professors, researchers or students)	Written in non-technical language for anyone to understand
Format/Structure	Articles usually more structured, may include these sections: <i>abstract, literature review, methodology, results, conclusion, bibliography</i>	Articles do not necessarily follow a specific format or structure
Special Features	Illustrations that support the text, such as tables of statistics, graphs, maps, or photographs	Illustrations with glossy or color photographs, usually for advertising purposes
Editors	Articles usually reviewed and critically evaluated by experts in the field (peer-reviewed)	Articles are not evaluated by experts in the field, but by editors on staff
Credits	A bibliography (works cited) and/or footnotes are always provided to document research thoroughly	A bibliography (works cited) is usually not provided, although names of reports or references may be mentioned in the text
Publisher	Often published by professional organizations, scholarly societies, or universities	Published by general or commercial publishers
Examples	Child Development Journal of American History Journal of Black Psychology	Business Week Newsweek Science News

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