



## Popular vs Scholarly Sources

Both popular and scholarly sources have their places in university-level assignments, but it's important to know what the differences are between them to best know when to use each kind. If you are in doubt about which your professor wants you to use in your assignments, it's best to ask them.

Note: there are other names for scholarly sources that your professor might use. They may ask for "peer reviewed articles," "journal articles," or "academic articles". All of these sources have undergone the peer review process, which is part of what makes them scholarly. For more information on the peer review process and what it involves, you can watch this [video](#).

This chart will help you figure out the difference between popular sources and scholarly sources. You can use it to help you identify which source is which:

Popular Sources	Scholarly Sources
Short, sometimes a page or less.	Usually quite long: some can be up to 25 pages. Some have multiple columns of text on each page.
Written by people who may or may not be experts but are not written for an audience with expertise in a subject.	Written by experts (sometimes your professors!) for other experts. Most authors of scholarly sources have Ph.Ds., MDs, or other professional designations.
Language is not technical and does not contain a lot of jargon. Articles are easier to read and understand.	Language can be very technical and will vary based on discipline. Students and those not familiar with the field might struggle with the language used.
May contain references, but often do not. Frequently contain advertisements or pictures.	Full bibliography or works cited lists, often with several pages of references or lengthy footnotes at the end of each page.
Have not undergone peer review.	Have undergone peer review.