UNIVERSITY WRITING PROGRAM

# Scholarly Vs. Non-Scholarly Journal Articles

## Scholarly Journal Articles

* **Purpose:** to inform, report, or make original research available to other researchers.
* **Authors/Publishers:** written by scholars or researchers in the field. Articles are peer reviewed by other experts in the field before being published by a professional organization.
* **Sources:** cite sources; include extensive documentation to previously published research (footnotes, endnotes, bibliographies, etc.)
* **Language:** use terminology, jargon, and the language of the discipline covered.
* **Format:** have grave, serious formats. May contain graphs and charts to illustrate concepts.
* **Examples:** *Annals of Microbiology*, *Harvard Business Review*, *Journal of Physiology*

## Non-Scholarly Journal Articles (News/General Interest)

* **Purpose:** to provide general information to a well educated, general audience.
* **Authors/Publishers:** written by staff, free-lance, or scholarly writers. Articles are not peer reviewed; editorial team makes all content decisions before publication for profit.
* **Sources:** Occasionally cite sources, but not as a rule.
* **Language:** geared to any educated, non-specialist audience; unfamiliar terms often defined.
* **Format:** are attractive in appearance. Include photos and graphics to enhance visual appeal.
* **Examples:** *Atlantic Monthly*, *Newsweek*, *Fortune*, *Psychology Today*

## Popular Magazines

* **Purpose:** to entertain or persuade, to sell products or services.
* **Authors/Publishers:** written by staff or free-lance writers for a broad-based audience. Articles are not peer reviewed. They are published by commercial enterprises for profit.
* **Sources:** rarely cite sources. Original sources may be obscure.
* **Language:** use simple language for broad accessibility. Articles are short, with little depth.
* **Format:** are generally glossy with an attractive format. Contain photos, illustrations, and drawings to enhance publication's image.
* **Examples:** *Better Homes and Gardens*, *GQ*, *Glamour*, *People Weekly*, *Sports Illustrated*

Credit: Adapted from The College of New Jersey, https://libguides.tcnj.edu/c.php?g=333347&p=2241041 and Elissa Jacobs, 2020.

The Brandeis University Writing Program, including the Writing Center, First-Year Writing, and Writing in the Majors, offers support for writing throughout the community, including undergraduates, graduate students, faculty, and staff.

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