

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 Articles are not peer reviewed; editorial team makes all content decisions before publication for profit.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 Articles are not peer reviewed.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.

For more information, see www.brandeis.edu/UWP or write to UWP@brandeis.edu.