# Scholarly Journal vs. Popular Magazine Articles

**How can you tell the difference?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Scholarly</th>
<th>Popular</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Length</strong></td>
<td>Longer articles, providing in-depth analysis of topics</td>
<td>Shorter articles, providing broader overviews of topics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Authorship</strong></td>
<td>Author usually an expert or specialist in the field; name and credentials always provided</td>
<td>Author usually a staff writer or a journalist, name and credentials often not provided</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Language/Audience</strong></td>
<td>Written in the jargon of the field for scholarly readers, professors, researchers or students</td>
<td>Written in non-technical language for anyone to understand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Format/Structure</strong></td>
<td>Articles usually structured, may include: abstract, literature review, methodology, results, conclusion, bibliography</td>
<td>Articles do not necessarily follow a specific format or structure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Special Features</strong></td>
<td>Illustrations that support the text, such as tables of statistics, graphs, maps, or photographs</td>
<td>Illustrations with glossy or color photographs, usually for advertising purposes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Editors</strong></td>
<td>Articles usually reviewed and critically evaluated by a board of experts in the field (refereed or peer reviewed)</td>
<td>Articles are not evaluated by experts in the field, but by editors on staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Credits</strong></td>
<td>A bibliography (works cited) and/or footnotes always provided to document research</td>
<td>A bibliography (works cited) is usually not provided, although names of reports or references may be mentioned in the text</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Still can’t tell the difference? This resource might help: [UlrichsWeb](https://ulrichsweb.com)

See also: [researchguides.ben.edu/popular-vs-scholarly](https://researchguides.ben.edu/popular-vs-scholarly)