So, you have an assignment that calls for some popular and scholarly sources.

With so many articles out there, how do you tell the difference between popular and scholarly sources?

By the end of this tutorial, you’ll be able to distinguish between the two.

You’ll learn about some of their characteristics and differences, and you’ll learn about good ways to use popular and scholarly literature in your own work.

Why do you think knowing the difference between popular and scholarly sources might be important?

My instructor thinks it is important. – Probably, but why else? Try again.

It will help me to gather information and contribute to communication. -- Yes! Understanding sources will help you to effectively research and communicate. It should make your life easier!

Click next arrow to continue.

It's only important for this class. -- Come on, now! This will help you in most classes, and understanding information sources can help you to make informed decisions in your life outside of school too.

Try again.
**SLIDE 4 SOURCE TYPES**

Click on 1 of the 2 source types to explore its characteristics.

After exploring both source types, click on the navigation button on the bottom to go on to the next section.

**SLIDE 5 POPULAR SOURCES: GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS**

Popular literature appears in magazines and newspapers.

The covers are often glossy or eye-catching.

These sources are geared toward a broad, general audience, and can be purchased at bookshops or newsstands.

The articles are reviewed by professional staff editor(s).

**SLIDE 6 POPULAR SOURCES: ANATOMY**

Scroll over the highlighted sections to review some characteristics of popular sources.

Language is meant to be understood by the general population

Articles appear in magazines or newspapers

May include pictures, special layouts and/or advertisements

Articles do not usually list references or notes

**SLIDE 7 POPULAR SOURCES: USES**

How are popular sources used?

Popular sources may present news and current events.

The review process to publish popular articles is short, so they can be a good place to look for very current information.

Popular sources may tell human interest stories or convey emotional responses.

They can also be useful for getting an overview of a topic.
SLIDE 8 SCHOLARLY SOURCES: GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

Scholarly literature is published in subject-specific journals. Here you can see the Journal of the American Medical Association, or JAMA, and International Studies Quarterly.

Scholarly journals are typically available through subscription only. You usually can’t find them in stores.

These articles are geared towards scholars and experts in the field.

They undergo reviewing by other scholars in the field, known as the peer review process.

SLIDE 9 SCHOLARLY SOURCES: ANATOMY

Scroll over the highlighted sections to learn some characteristics of scholarly sources.

Articles appear in subject-specific journals.

Authors are scholars and experts in the field.

Articles may include graphs, data and/or statistics.

Language is subject-specific; may include jargon.

Articles usually include a list of references or notes.

SLIDE 10 SCHOLARLY SOURCES: USES

How are scholarly sources used?

Scholarly literature is useful for gathering subject specific information, research and data.

It is a way for scholars to communicate.

It may present or review research or criticism on a given topic.

SLIDE 11 QUIZ

Now you try! Take a look at these two articles and decide if each one is popular or scholarly.
SLIDE 12 EXPLANATION

The article on the left is popular.

It is from a popular magazine called The Economist, which can be purchased in newsstands and bookshops.

The language of the article is easy to understand and is written for a broad audience.

There is a large photo included in the layout with a humorous caption.

Notice that there are not any notes or references included at the end of this article.

These are some of the characteristics that give it away as a popular article.

The article on the right is a scholarly article.

It is from the Journal of Behavioral Education. This title gives you a clue that it is a scholarly source.

The authors include their academic titles. Their expertise in the field is indicated.

The articles’ language is geared toward other scholars in the field of education. It uses some subject-specific terms.

Also notice that this article includes a list of references at the end.

These are some of the characteristics that give it away as a scholarly article.

SLIDE 13 MORE QUESTIONS

Have more questions about popular and scholarly sources?

Contact a librarian! They can help you with these questions.

Check out your library's website for hours and contact info.