Popular Vs. Scholarly Sources

Popular Articles (Magazines/Newspapers/Blogs)
- Often written by journalists or professional writers
- Written for the general public
- Written to inform the public and/or sell newspaper/magazines
- Use language easily understood by general readers
- Publication often occurs very shortly after completion
- Rarely give full citations for sources

Examples of Popular Sources:

Scholarly Articles (Journals)
- Written by and for faculty, researchers or scholars (chemists, historians, doctors, artists, etc.)
- Uses scholarly or technical jargon
- Include full citations
- Often refereed or peer reviewed
- Publication can take a year or more from article completion date
- Book reviews and editorials are not considered scholarly articles, even when found in scholarly journals

Examples of Scholarly Journals:

Note:
Popular sources can be valid resources for background information, or for current events. Popular sources cannot replace a requirement for a scholarly source, but may be used to complement other sources.