

Comparison Chart: Scholarly (Academic) vs Popular Articles

	Journal – Scholarly (Academic)	Magazine –Popular
Contents	Detailed report of original research	Commentary about the original research (experiment or event) by someone who was not involved in the research or present at the event. May include personal narrative, opinion, or anecdotes.
Author	Author’s credentials are given: professional degree (Ph.D, MD) and institutional affiliation. Author is usually a scholar with subject expertise.	Author may or may not be named in article; often is a journalist or professional writer. May or may not have subject expertise.
Audience	Scholars, researchers and students	General public
Language	Specialized terminology or jargon of the field	Uses everyday language understandable to most readers
Layout of article	Highly structured organization: Includes objectives of the experiment; methodology; results and analysis of the results; conclusion and bibliography.	Informal organization: colorful, attractive typography and formatting, usually includes illustrations or photographs. Layout is meant to attract interest of general audience.
References	An extensive list of references is always present. All facts can be verified.	Often not included. If present, references to resources may be few in number.
Examples	Developmental Psychology, Journal of the American Medical Association, American Journal of Political Science, etc.	Scientific American, Psychology Today, U.S. News and World Report, Business Week, etc.
Professional review	Manuscript must go through a peer-review evaluation by an editorial board of experts in the field. In order to be published, its quality of research and contributions to knowledge must be judged valuable.	Manuscript is reviewed by the magazine’s editor(s) who may not have any special knowledge of the subject matter.