

Popular vs. Scholarly Sources Exercise

- **Assignment Overview:** The student will pick a topic related to the course curriculum or be assigned a topic by the professor. Once the topic has been chosen or assigned, the student will need to search the library databases for 2 scholarly journal articles and 2 popular journal articles. Suggestions for which databases to use can be given (our general area databases such as Proquest Research Library or OmniFile Full Text are good places to start).

The student will need to compare and contrast the information provided on their topic in the scholarly articles and in the popular magazine articles by writing 1-2 paragraph explanation for each source found. The student will be expected to correctly site the source in either APA or MLA style.

- **Purpose and Learning Outcomes:**
 1. Explains to students the difference between the types of information available on a topic in a scholarly journal article verses a popular magazine article.
 2. Encourages students to think critically about the information they have found and to differentiate between different information sources.
 3. Helps students to identify the purpose and audience of different resources.
 4. Highlights to students the importance of using scholarly sources in their research.
 5. Provides an introduction into using the Eckerd College Library's databases to search for articles.
- **ACRL Information Literacy Standards incorporated in this assignment:**
 - Standard 1 – The information literate student determines the nature and extent of the information needed.