



ACADEMIC JOURNAL ARTICLE (scholarly)

VS

NEWSPAPER ARTICLE (popular)

How to differ and how to use them ?

	ACADEMIC JOURNAL ARTICLE (SCHOLARLY)	NEWSPAPER/MAGAZINE ARTICLE (POPULAR)
Symbol in the catalogue		
Time to read	Fairly long: 10 to 30 pages on average with specialised vocabulary	Short: Often less than a page with everyday vocabulary
Authors	Researchers specialising in the subject	Specialist or non-specialist journalists, columnists, commentators, etc.
Intended audience	Restricted audience: mainly academics and students	General audience (usually)
Kind of source	Secondary (sometimes tertiary)	Primary and secondary
Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advance academic research on a given subject • Report on the latest developments in a given subject area • Establish a scientific fact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform the population, comment on popular topics and current events • Report an event • Share the author's reading of events
Publication conditions and process	<p>Provides an analysis of the subject based on an explicit research methodology</p> <p>Cites all sources</p> <p>In the case of peer-reviewed journals, each article is reviewed prior to publication by "peers", i.e., scholars who are experts on the subject and who approve the quality of the article in terms of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • its contribution to knowledge in the field • its relevance to the scholarly conversation • the suitability and rigour of the research methodology 	<p>Approved by the publication's editors</p> <p>Does not always cite its sources</p> <p>Cross-checking and verification of sources is required, although not necessarily made explicit</p>

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Why and how should students use them?

Often deals with a particular aspect of a more general topic: a way of addressing a specific research question or issue.

Reports on the state of existing knowledge on a given subject at a given time (state of the art/literature review)

Offers verified and reliable sources of information that meet academic standards

Provides a bibliography of references on the subject concerned: an opportunity to find other specific resources and to deepen/expand your research on the subject

Allows you to familiarise yourself with a subject

Bears witness to an event, an era, and/or public opinion in a society at a given time.

Allows you to study the degree of information a population has about a given event at a given time

Sometimes among the only resources that exist for a given topic, i.e.:

- if the subject is extremely recent and has not yet been researched (or not very much), e.g.: TikTok
- if very few secondary/academic sources exist on the subject
e.g.: positions of the French left and right regarding the Korean War at the time

Can lead you to academic/official/statistical sources
E.g.: the article refers to statistical data from a ministerial report => return to the original source and consult the report

Useful as a hook in an introduction or to begin a conclusion

Can illustrate research findings
E.g.: In addition to citing an academic resource analysing one of the events of May '68, add a press clipping about the event from the time

Do's and don'ts

Do:
Draw on scholarly sources in your work

The works cited must be relevant and you must have read them

Don't:
Forget to use scholarly sources (books, book chapters, articles) in your work

Use a resource in your work without citing the source

Do:
Draw on popular (newspaper/magazine) sources in your work

- if this complements the scholarly sources you've used
- if it is relevant to your treatment of the subject

Don't:
Use only popular sources if scholarly sources exist and would be relevant to the subject
E.g.: do not claim that a social phenomenon exists solely by citing a brief newspaper article.

Content yourself with citing a newspaper article that cites a study => you should find the original source, i.e., consult the study itself.

If in doubt

(As always) ask the librarians or your teacher for advice.