

## POPULAR AND SCHOLARY JOURNALS

**Assignment:** In this assignment, students are asked to compare and contrast information on one topic presented in a scholarly journal with information on the same topic from a popular journal. Students will analyze the way that one topic is covered in these different formats, which will not only teach them about the subject but will also introduce them to different kinds of periodicals. Students should cite the articles appropriately in their analyses and should turn in a bibliography. (This assignment was originally created by Bev Segner)

**Preparation:** You can either choose a topic that you would like your students to investigate, or you can ask them to select a topic. It might be useful to have students discuss their topics in class, so you can make sure it is a subject which will be addressed in both popular and scholarly literature. Before the library session, your students should have selected a topic; it might be useful to have them write down keywords or concepts to bring to the session.

**What to expect in the library session:** The librarian will probably bring a print versions of scholarly and popular journals to visually demonstrate the differences between these publications. The librarian will explain that peer-reviewed journals act as tools of scholarly communication and will introduce students to the idea of academic publishing. Students will also be introduced to databases and will learn basic searching techniques, such as limiting results to scholarly or peer-reviewed journals. The librarian will point to resources that will help students learn about documentation styles and bibliographies. After discussions and/or demonstrations, students will be given time to search on their own for articles.

**Tips, suggestions and warnings:** Students are inclined to choose topics that are either too broad or too narrow. Searching a database often illustrates that problem to students because they end up with either too many or too few results. They may need help articulating the subject of their research. You may also find that students have never heard of scholarly journals before your class and may be a little intimidated by the language used in scholarly articles. Be prepared to give them time to learn how to read the scholarly work when thinking about deadlines.

**Information Literacy Learning Outcomes:** By completing this assignment, students are called upon to perform the following:

- Choose appropriate resources to search for relevant information
- Implement a variety of search strategies to find information effectively and efficiently
- Evaluate information resources critically
- Cite research in an appropriate documentation style