

Popular Magazine vs. Scholarly Journal

Although articles that appear in magazines and journals are both called periodical articles, they appear in publications that have different purposes. They are also meant for different audiences. Here is how to identify a journal article from a magazine article.

	<i>Magazines</i>	<i>Journals</i>
Purpose	To inform about current events or general interest topics, entertain, and sell advertising	To present news, current research, or findings to professionals or scholars in a particular field
Layout	Short articles Color images and photos Includes advertisements	Long, in-depth articles Few to no images or photos No ads
Author	Reporters & journalists; the author may be anonymous. Likely not to be an expert on the subject at hand.	Scholars & experts in a field Professionals
Pre-publication Process	Reviewed by magazine editors	Often “peer-reviewed” or “refereed” by a committee of scholars or experts in the same field
Intended Audience	General public Target group on a topic	Researchers Scholars & experts
Language	Easy to understand	Academic, specialized, or technical language
Bibliography and/or footnotes	Almost never	Yes, often many sources are cited.
Examples	<i>Time</i> <i>Fortune</i> <i>Parenting</i>	<i>Journal of Sociology</i> <i>Science</i> <i>Child Development</i>