

Scholarly Journals

OR

Legit Sources 101



Periodical Literature

- * Scholarly
- * Substantive News or General Interest
- * Popular
- * Sensational



Scholarly Journals

- * plain appearance
(may contain charts/graphs but few glossy pages)
- * lengthy, in-depth
- * cites sources
- * academic language
- * written by scholars/experts
- * professions organizations



EXAMPLES: American Economic Review, Archives of Sexual Behavior, JAMA: The Journal of the American Medical Association, Journal of Marriage and the Family, Political Science Quarterly, Poetry Review, A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies

Substantive News or General Interest

- * generally designed to appeal to a mass audience
- * frequent use of illustrations and photographs
- * sometimes cite their sources but often don't
- * articles are written by an editorial staff member, journalist, scholar or freelance writer whose name may or may not be listed



Substantive News or General Interest (continued)

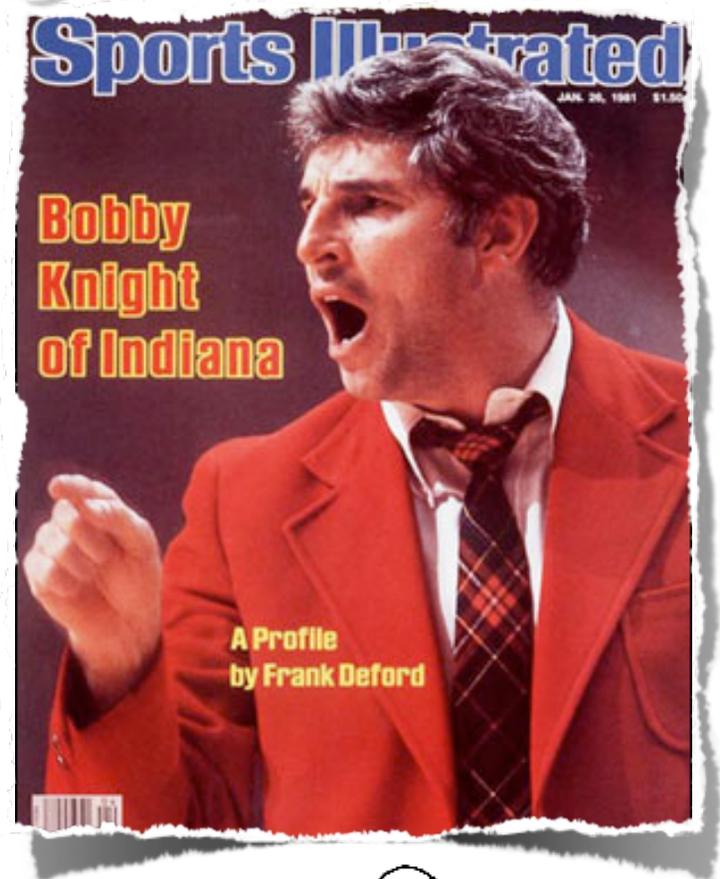
- * writing style may assume the reader has a certain educational level, but not special knowledge or background in the required field of study
- * main purpose is to provide news and information for a broad audience (mass appeal)
- * published by commercial enterprises or individuals, although some are from professional organizations
- * attractive in appearance



EXAMPLES: Christian Science Monitor, The Economist, Time, Newsweek, Psychology Today

Popular Magazines

- * often glossy with many photographs, advertisements and graphics
- * rarely, if ever, cite their sources
- * short articles are written with less sophisticated language
- * written by staff members, freelance authors who may not be listed
- * designed to provide entertainment, give practical information, or sell advertiser's products



EXAMPLES: Ebony, Parents, People, Reader's Digest, Sports Illustrated, Vogue, Entertainment Weekly

Sensational Periodicals

- * style varies, but a tabloid format is most often used
- * language is informal; inflammatory or sensational
- * assume their audience has a certain gullibility level
- * purpose is most often arousing curiosity and catering to popular superstitions
- * generally have flashy headlines designed to astonish (“Women Sells Twins for Two Beers”)
- * often newspaper format



EXAMPLES: The Globe, National Examiner, The Star, Weekly World News, The National Enquirer

Evaluating Periodicals

- * Ask yourself these questions:
 - Is it brief and to the point (more like a magazine) or is it lengthy and more substantive (like a scholarly journal) ?
 - Does it list an author?
 - Is it written in a sophisticated, academic language or is the style more informal?
 - Does the article cite its sources in a bibliography or footnotes?
- * When in doubt, investigate further...
 - Search the web for publisher's website
 - Ask media center specialist



Reputable Sources

- * peer reviewed and refereed periodicals are considered very reputable and scholarly sources. USE THEM!
- * refereed journals contain articles that are evaluated by at least one subject expert in addition to the editor before being accepted for publication
- * peer reviewed journals may solicit the impartial opinions of several members from the research and academic community before accepting an article for publication.

