

Lesson Notes: Popular vs. Scholarly Resources

Objective: *Students will be able to distinguish the variety of information formats in order to evaluate sources for different research purposes.*

Background needed: Students should have knowledge of the following terms and concepts: *periodical, publication, database, credentials, affiliation, in-text citation, bibliography.* Basic knowledge of how to locate and use the library website is helpful although step-by-step instructions are included.

Lead in to activity: Create a scenario in which students might be required to locate scholarly texts.

Activity: This activity is meant to be done in pairs or small groups with the instructor floating to help students who have questions or get stuck.

Follow up: Solicit answers from students and try to draw out answers that they did not consider. Lead a discussion about the value of each kind of resource and why one of them might be preferred over the other in certain circumstances. Show tools in the databases that will help them to locate scholarly/academic resources. Optional: draw a table and have students list characteristics of scholarly and popular resources in the table to create a “cheat sheet” that will help students identify articles “in the wild.”

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