PUTTING YOUR LIBRARY SOURCES TOGETHER

Journal Articles

What: Journal articles attempt to extend humanity’s knowledge by testing or proving a new idea, insight or thesis.

Journal articles are “refereed,” “peer-reviewed,” and “scholarly,” which means they have passed a fact-checking process and been deemed critically important.

Hint: Articles assume the reader is fairly familiar with the basic facts of the field. Articles won’t give you much context or background to their very specialized arguments.

Magazines and Newspapers

What: Offer news and detailed analysis of current events, high-quality opinion pieces or cultural commentary.

Usually do not contain tested ideas or arguments backed with evidence.

Books

Nonfiction, scholarly books can be overviews of a topic, present a long, detailed argument about a specific idea, or be a collection of chapters written by different authors and overseen by an editor.