Is it a scholarly article or isn’t it?
http://www.alverno.edu/media/alvernocollege/library/pdfs/scholarly.pdf

1. **Be sure you are looking in an **electronic database** and not on the Internet**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Electronic Databases (a.k.a. journal databases)</th>
<th>The Internet (a.k.a. the Web)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contain articles that are edited and compiled from well-known journal sources</td>
<td>Has no editorial board to go through the contents of web pages for currency &amp; accuracy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. **Once you have selected an electronic database that is appropriate to your topic, then look for the right clues:**

**Scholarly Resources**

- are published by an association or scholarly press; almost never appear in newspapers or popular magazines
- always identify the author(s) and typically list the educational institution the author is affiliated with as well as his/her credentials
- always have references and a bibliography
- are typically written by professors, scientists or professionals; often the article is based on or relates to a study
- usually have long titles that describe the article’s content
- are primarily found in subject-specific periodical indexes such as PsycINFO
- typically include an abstract summarizing the article’s content
- are usually quite lengthy
- may contain supporting diagrams, charts or illustrations

**Popular Press Resources**

- are published in newspapers and magazines for example, Harpers or Ms.
- sometimes identify the author(s) as well as the author(s) affiliation and credentials
- rarely have references and a bibliography
- are typically written by freelance writers or professional journalists; do not relate to a study
- usually have fairly short titles that are not descriptive of the article’s content
- are found in more generalized indexes such as Academic Search Elite (EBSCO)
- rarely include an abstract summarizing the article’s contents
- can be any length, even shorter than a page
- often contain photographs and advertisements

Have other questions? Contact an Alverno Reference Librarian at (414) 382-6062