

What Kind of Article Is it?

There are several kinds of articles available to nursing students doing research. Two of the most commonly required articles for assignments are "scholarly" articles and "research" articles. Use the following checklist to help you decide what kind of article you have. All research articles are "scholarly" but not all scholarly articles are "research" articles.

Start with the citation:

- Are the authors names listed?
- Did you find the citation in a library database like CINAHL or MEDLINE?
- Does the database citation say something like "research article" or "case study"? If the database citation says the article is a "commentary" or "letter" you DO NOT have a scholarly article.
- Does the database citation say the journal is peer-reviewed?
- Is the article longer than 2 pages? Shorter articles are rarely scholarly.

If you answered yes to the majority of the above, than you **might have a scholarly article. Continue on to be sure.*

Take a look at the article full-text:

- Is the language in the article technical and specific to your field?
- Does the article include references or a bibliography?
- Does the article have an abstract?
- Are the author's credentials given?

**If you answered yes to these questions, than it is a good bet you have a scholarly article. But is a research article? Continue on to find out.*

Is your scholarly article a research article?

- Does it list results of experiments or research?
- Does it contain charts or graphs depicting results?
- Does it contain sections discussing methodology, results, or limitations?
- Does it contain a review of previous research, sometimes called a literature review?

**If you answered yes to the majority of these questions than it is likely you have a research article.*

If you are in doubt about the kind of article you have, please consult a librarian or your instructor.