

Types of Articles and Their Characteristics

Article Types	Characteristics
Popular	<p> Authored by journalists and appear in magazines or newspapers Length is usually brief, 1-3 pages Address issues of interest to the general public Appears glossy and includes photos and color fonts </p>
Trade	<p> Authored by practitioners or scholars in a given profession Length is usually brief, 1-5 pages Provide news and trends in the profession Address practical issues and communicate new ideas and recommendations for solving problems Are often anecdotal, "How I Did" this or that May include professional job ads Tend to include photographs and may use color font </p>
Review	<p> Authored by scholars and appear in journals Length is usually medium, 5-10 pages Describes the status of research on a specific topic in a discipline Detail the questions existing research has addressed May identify gaps or new areas in which to build the body of knowledge on a given topic Typically has no photographs, charts or graphs </p>
Theoretical	<p> Authored by scholars and appear in journals Length is usually long, 8 or more pages Detail the author's theoretical perspective on key issues in the discipline May test existing theory Typically has no photographs, charts or graphs </p>
Empirical	<p> Authored by scholars and appear in journals Length is usually long, 8 or more pages Reports on the results of research studies that test a question or hypothesis Describes research methodology Includes data and draws conclusions from data May include charts or graphs </p>

This chart was adapted from a similar handout prepared by the Fletcher Library at Arizona State University.