Resource Tips That Could Save Your Grade
How to identify and evaluate 4 resources types you can use to create better research projects.

For Each Resource You Use, Consider the Following:
- What qualifies the author to write on this subject?
- How long ago was the resource written or published?
- Does the publication have a good reputation? Is it trustworthy?
- Is it appropriate for my assignment? Is it what my professor is looking for?

1. Scholarly Journal Articles:
- Typically written by researchers for an academic audience using subject specific language.
- Must go through peer review: a process in which several experts in the field review and edit an article for accuracy before it can be published.
- Typically starts with an overview paragraph called an abstract and ends with a list of citations.
- **When to use:** For specific information to support your argument.

2. Popular Articles:
- Examples include newspaper and magazine articles. Can be in print or electronic.
- Written by journalists typically without in-depth knowledge of the subject for a general audience.
- Articles are edited by an editor, but they do not go through a peer review process.
- **When to use:** For “breaking news” and the latest general information to support your argument.

3. Books:
- Examples include: Textbooks, encyclopedias, dictionaries, popular books, and eBooks.
- Can be scholarly or popular. Only scholarly books go through peer review.
- Authors often have in-depth knowledge of the subject, but some authors do not.
- **When to use:** For general information and to learn subject specific terminology.

4. Web Resources:
- Examples include: Wikipedia, YouTube, social media, blogs, web pages.
- Author expertise varies and author credentials and background should be evaluated.
- **When to use:** Okay for getting background information on a subject. Not typically appropriate to reference in a class research assignment.

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