# Module Name & Topic:
**CORE Part 3: Defining a Scholarly Source**

Students will compare 3 different articles to determine which one is scholarly and will then list out the reasons why they think it is scholarly. This activity allows students to think critically about publications in order to deduce the features that give scholarly sources their scholarly nature.

## Time Needed:
**30 minutes** total (2 minutes intro, 3 minutes video; 10 minutes examining sources; 10 minutes discussing; 5 minutes database demo)

## Preparation:
- Make packets of worksheets and articles for each group of 3-4 students
- Review criteria of scholarly articles in link below (under Additional tools)
- Review how to find scholarly articles (see [https://drive.google.com/open?id=1S2uxyFTfwMLvNpqU-jcYfYQxeY_wbaA1](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1S2uxyFTfwMLvNpqU-jcYfYQxeY_wbaA1))

## Objectives:
- Students will be able to distinguish a scholarly article from other types of sources
- Students will be able to find a scholarly article using one of the UW Libraries’ databases

## Outline:
1. **Introduction** (2 min): How & Why?
2. **Video** (3 min): Start by showing the class this 3-minute video: What is a Scholarly Journal Article? [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wxgaOeQ10sQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wxgaOeQ10sQ)
3. **Activity** (20 min total): Have students divide into groups of 3-4. Provide each group with a set of three articles (use articles provided or you can find examples that are related to your course content). Each set of articles includes:
   - A peer-reviewed, scholarly research article
   - A popular source
   - A source somewhere in-between, such as an article written by a scholar but not published in a scholarly journal, or an in-depth newspaper feature article
4. **(10 min)** Working in small groups, have the students compare the articles
   - They should:
     - Identify areas where the articles are different
       - Who wrote the article?
       - What source(s) does it come from?
       - Why was it published?
       - Who is meant to read it?
     - Discuss which article(s) is/are scholarly, what one(s) is/are not?
5. **(10 min)** After each group has had time to review and discuss the articles, ask students to tell you which one(s) they think is/are scholarly and why.
6. Based on the criteria, ask students to define what a scholarly article is.
7. At the end of class, take a photo of the whiteboard (or transcribe the criteria) and share it in the class Canvas site for future reference.
8. **Finding Scholarly Articles demo (5 min)**
   - Demonstrate how to find scholarly articles using UW Libraries Search or Academic Search Complete.

**Campus Resources:**

**Additional tools:**
- Yeah, But Is It Scholarly? handout (Indiana U): [https://libraries.indiana.edu/sites/default/files/Is_It_Scholarly.pdf](https://libraries.indiana.edu/sites/default/files/Is_It_Scholarly.pdf)
- Monash Univ Scholarly Sources Checklist: [https://www.monash.edu/rlo/quick-study-guides/scholarly-sources-checklist](https://www.monash.edu/rlo/quick-study-guides/scholarly-sources-checklist)
- UW Libraries Evaluating Sources Libguide:
  - [http://guides.lib.uw.edu/research/evaluate/sources](http://guides.lib.uw.edu/research/evaluate/sources) (Scholarly, popular, trade)
  - [http://guides.lib.uw.edu/research/evaluate/craap](http://guides.lib.uw.edu/research/evaluate/craap) (Scholarly sources)
- FAQ: How Do I Find Scholarly Articles in My Subject? [https://guides.lib.uw.edu/research/faq/fulltext](https://guides.lib.uw.edu/research/faq/fulltext)
- UW Libraries Databases for finding scholarly articles:
  - Academic Search Complete: [http://guides.lib.uw.edu/az.php](http://guides.lib.uw.edu/az.php) (under Starting Points)

**Module Supply List:**
- Defining a Scholarly Source worksheet (1 copy per student)
- Printouts of 3 sources from worksheet (1 set of 3 articles per group of 3-4 students)
- White board markers, OR blank Google Doc or Canvas page (for recording group discussion)
- How to find scholarly articles handout (1 copy per student)

**Credits:** This lesson is adapted from Duke University’s [Library 101 Toolkit](https://library.duke.edu/services/library-101-toolkit), licensed under [CC NC BY 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/).