Before completing this worksheet, be sure to review the library’s guide on finding scholarly (peer-reviewed) sources to learn the difference between popular and scholarly sources. [https://hartness.vsc.edu/find/articles/peer-reviewed/](https://hartness.vsc.edu/find/articles/peer-reviewed/)

These two articles represent different versions of the same research. As you read each source, try to determine if it is a popular or scholarly article and why.


**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- What are the roles of newspapers or popular magazine articles in relation to scholarly research articles?

- Who are the intended audiences for each of the articles and how does that effect how they are written and the language that is used?

- Do you think newspaper editors sensationalize information from academic sources to push sales or grab the reader’s attention?

- What’s one technique you could use to track down the original research article you see referenced in a magazine article or news source?

- What is the best way to tell the difference between a research article and an article from a popular source? What is the purpose (and importance) of each?

**Some points to remember when completing your own research:**

- Both magazine and journal articles can be good sources for your work.
- When selecting articles, think about how you intend to use the information:
  - Do you want background on a topic new to you? **(use magazines)**
  - Did your teacher say to cite scholarly resources? **(use academic journals)**
- Often a combination of the two will be most appropriate for undergraduate research.