

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/>

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

Vaccines do not cause autism (2015). *Exceptional Parent*, 45(4), 36. Retrieved from <https://tinyurl.com/exceptionalparent2>

Downs, M. (2012). Autism-vaccine link: Evidence doesn't dispel doubts. WebMd Special Report. Retrieved from <http://tinyurl.com/downswebmd>

Taylor LE, Swerdfeger AL, Eslick GD. (2014). Vaccines are not associated with autism: An evidence-based meta-analysis of case-control and cohort studies. *Vaccine*. 32(29):3623-3629. Retrieved from <https://tinyurl.com/taylorvaccine>

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What are the roles of health websites and popular magazine articles in relation to scholarly research articles?
- What is the best way to tell the difference between a popular and scholarly source?
- What factors contribute to determining the quality of information?

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 and websites)**
 - Did your teacher say to cite **scholarly** resources? **(use academic journals)**
- Often a combination of sources will be most appropriate for undergraduate research.