For your research paper the professor says “Use only scholarly or academic journals!” What does that mean?

There is no simple method to check to see if an article is academic, it is a matter of experience. Some items to look for when searching a list of results from a database:

<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Academic Journals</strong></th>
<th><strong>Magazines</strong></th>
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| Articles are usually at least 10 pages long. Book reviews and shorter news items are not considered academic articles. | Rarely, if ever, cite sources  
Information often second or third hand and original source often obscure |
| Written by scholars and researchers the discipline  
Authors credentials are provided at beginning or end of article | Articles written by journalists, staff members or free lance writers |
| Always cite sources in the form of footnotes or bibliographies | Rarely, if ever, cite sources  
Information often second or third hand and original source often obscure |
| Often peer reviewed by several specialists in the field and an editor | Reviewed by an editor |
| Language specialized to the discipline covered  
Assumes some scholarly background of the reader | Articles are usually very short, written in simple language and designed to meet a minimal education level  
Usually little depth to the content of articles |
| Purpose is to report on original research in order to make the information available to the rest of the scholarly world | Purpose is to entertain, promote a viewpoint, or sell a product |
| Often published by professional organizations or universities | Published by commercial enterprises or individuals |

**Scholarly Journal Examples:**  
- Communication Education  
- The Musical Quarterly  
- The Journal of Advertising

**Magazine Examples:**  
- Southern Living  
- Psychology Today  
- Sports Illustrated
Non-Scholarly Magazines & Journals

Non-scholarly periodicals fall into several categories including:

- **News magazines**
  
  Time, Newsweek, and U.S. News and World Report
  
  These periodicals provide reputable reporting on current topics and are good sources for introductions to those topics, but they don't provide the same analysis as scholarly journals. Articles are not usually written by scholars in the field and are aimed at a more general audience than are articles in scholarly journals.

- **Opinion Magazines**
  
  New Republic, National Review, Mother Jones, Atlantic, and Nation
  
  These magazines are aimed at an educated audience, without assuming particular scholarly background. They comment on current events and offer a particular viewpoint on world affairs, politics, and cultural matters.

- **Popular Magazines**
  
  Health, Sports Illustrated, Jet, People, Redbook, and Reader's Digest
  
  Most academic libraries don't carry as many of these magazines as public libraries do. Popular magazines are attractive and entertaining, but do not report on original research or cite sources, and are not the kind of sources to cite in the bibliography of an academic paper.

- **Trade Journals**
  
  Education Digest, American Journal of Nursing, and Progressive Grocer
  
  These magazines are industry specific, designed to update and inform the reader on current trends in the industry.

NOTE: There are reference books that describe and evaluate magazines and journals. If you need further information about a title you may want to consult: *Magazines for Libraries* by Cheryl LaGuardia, Bill Katz and Linda Sternberg Katz. REF Z 6941 .M23 2003