

Name: Akash Reddy Jammula

Major: Computer Science

Course: Effective Academic Writing

Assignment: Week 10 Assignment (Try-It-Out2)

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## **Part 1: Compare and Contrast Sources**

**Popular Source:** Christine Kivlen's article "Therapy dogs help students cope with the stress of college life" (The Conversation, 2021).

**Author:** Christine Kivlen is probably a skilled professional in the field of occupational therapy, even though her exact credentials are not mentioned in the excerpt.

**Audience:** The general public, including college students, teachers, and anyone with an interest in mental health and wellbeing, is the target audience for this article.

**Purpose:** This article's goal is to educate readers about the growing popularity of therapy dog programs on college campuses and how they benefit students' mental health. The author wants people to know how therapy dog programs can help people deal with the pressures of college life.

**Sources Cited:** There are no direct citations or references in this excerpt. Rather than citing specific sources, the author relies on personal experiences and general knowledge of therapy dog programs; there is no literature review, reference list, or bibliography.

**Language:** The popular source uses language that is approachable and informal, making it suitable for a wide range of readers. In order to keep readers interested, the narrative-driven writing style uses relatable examples and personal anecdotes.

**Visuals:** The article's photos of college students interacting with therapy dogs and dogs themselves help the reader better grasp and find the content more appealing.

**Academic Reference:** "Is It Appropriate for Dogs to Sit in Classrooms? The Open Journal of Occupational Therapy, 2022; Christine Kivlen, Allison Quevillon, and Dani Pasquarelli, "The Effects of Canine Assisted Education on College Student Mental Health."

**Authors:** Dani Pasquarelli, Allison Quevillon, and Christine Kivlen are all extremely skilled professionals with advanced degrees in occupational therapy.

**Audience:** Academics and professionals interested in mental health interventions in educational settings, as well as researchers, practitioners, and educators in the occupational therapy field, are the target audience for this academic article.

**Purpose:** This article's goal is to provide the results of a study looking into how canine-assisted instruction affects college students' mental health. The authors hope to add empirical data to the body of knowledge regarding the effectiveness of canine-assisted interventions for college students' mental health issues.

**References Cite:** A thorough review of the body of literature is demonstrated by the scholarly article's 35 sources, which also include a reference list citing earlier research studies and scholarly sources pertinent to the study's subject.

**Language:** The academic source uses formal, technical language, which is typical of writing in an academic setting. The writing is objective and research-focused, clearly and precisely presenting the study's methodology and findings.

**Visuals:** To help with understanding and interpreting the study's findings, the article includes figures and tables that visually present the research data and conclusions. The intended audience will find it easier to understand and appreciate the content's scholarly quality thanks to these illustrations.

## **Part 2: Review the Source Characteristics**

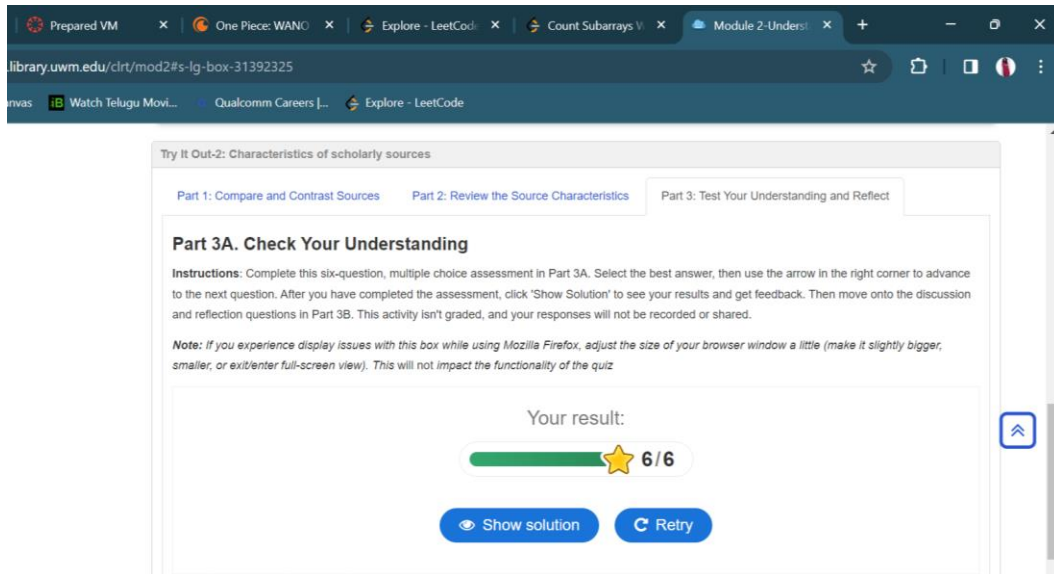
The Conversation's original article is a highly accessible resource that places a higher value on entertainment and basic knowledge than a wide range of academic references. The language used is intended to be more widely understood.

On the other hand, the second piece from The Open Journal of Occupational Therapy functions as an academically oriented scholarly reference. It was written by several people with advanced degrees in occupational therapy, draws from original research, and is intended for readers who work in the field as practitioners and researchers. The article uses formal, technical language and is supported by figures that show the data and methodology of the study.

The second article is more research-oriented, but the first one, which emphasizes the special experiences of students and the advantages of therapy dog programs for mental health, is more reliant on anecdotal evidence. It presents the methodology, findings, and implications of the study in an official, scholarly manner.

I did note that the first web article published in The Conversation has Dr. Christine Kivlen as the common and sole author, while Drs. Allison Quivillon and Dani Pasquarelli co-authored the second research article published in The Open Journal of Occupational Therapy.

## Part 3A. Check Your Understanding



## Part 3B. Reflect or Discuss

Answer 1: I performed well on the evaluation, correctly recognizing the salient features of both the scholarly and popular sources. I find that determining the source's intended audience is frequently the most difficult task. Determining if an audience is specialized or general can be difficult at times, particularly if the source's language isn't overtly academic or technical.

Answer 2: I would weigh a number of criteria to evaluate the sources' value before choosing which ones to include in my research report. First, I would assess the source's credibility and dependability by looking at the author's background, the publication's location, and whether the information is backed up by references or proof. In academic writing, scholarly sources are frequently given more weight due to their rigorous peer-review procedures and academic affiliations.

But I would also acknowledge the importance of popular sources in offering a range of viewpoints, real-world illustrations, and captivating stories that can support academic research. Popular sources can be helpful in illuminating larger social trends, telling compelling personal tales, or providing real-world examples of how academic ideas are applied.