Steps to confirm blinded peer review and open access status of journals and articles:

Your assignment requires that the articles you cite are from blinded peer reviewed journals (this can be single or double blind). If the articles you wish to cite are from open access journals, you are also required to confirm that they are listed in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ).

Here are the steps to go through to confirm the blinded peer review and open access status of the articles you locate for your assignments.

1. Locate an article you want to use in your assignment by searching in a journal article database like Political Science Complete.

2. In the citation information for the article, identify the Journal Title and ISSN


   ...The journal title is often called the "source" in the database record. The ISSN number will be closer to the bottom of the record.

   The Potentials and Difficulties of Transnational Populism: The Case of the Democracy in Europe Movement 2025 (DiEM25).

   Authors: De Cleen, Benjamin¹ (AUTHOR)
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Moffitt, Benjamin² (AUTHOR)
Panayotu, Panos³ (AUTHOR)
Stavrakakis, Yannis⁴ (AUTHOR)

   Source: Political Studies Feb2020, Vol. 68 Issue 1, p146-166. 21p. 1 Chart.
3. Once you have identified the journal title (for example: Journal of Democracy, Political Studies, World Politics, Comparative Politics, Democratization), and ISSN use the Ulrich’s International Periodicals Directory database to locate the journal’s homepage and its open access status.

4. Go to the Ulrichs database and type in the journal title or ISSN

In the search results, you should find an entry for your journal title.

5. If the journal has a referee’s uniform beside it, it means there journal uses some type of peer review.
6. Click on the journal title to see the journal record in the Ulrich’s database.

![Journal Record in Ulrich's Database]

7. Use the Website link from the Ulrich’s database record to go to the journal’s website, to locate the type of peer review information.

Once you are on the journal website, look for a description of the journal, an About Us section, or Aims and Scope, Submit/Submission a paper section, or Author guidelines/Instructions. Authors wishing to publish an article in the journal will need to know the peer review policy, so this information will usually be found in any Author/Submission sections.
If you have any questions about publishing with SAGE, please visit the SAGE Journal Solutions Portal.

1. What do we publish?
   1.1 Aims & Scope
   1.2 Article Types
   1.3 Writing your paper
2. Editorial policies
   2.1 Peer review policy
   2.2 Authorship

2.1 Peer review policy

Political Studies adheres to a rigorous double-blind reviewing policy in which the identity of both the reviewer and author are always concealed from both parties.

All papers submitted to the journal are assigned to one of the four editors of the journal. In addition, and prior to being accepted for publication, one of the other editors will be asked to read the paper and invited to consider whether the paper is presented in a way which will appeal to the generalist audience of the journal.

*** If the journal uses blinded peer review and is not open access, you can use the journal article in your assignment and do not need to complete any further checking.

8. If the journal is open access, information you can find in both the Ulrich’s database record and on the journal’s website, you must further confirm that it is listed in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ).

In Ulrich’s if the journal has an open lock icon, this means the journal is Open Access:

Open Access Policy

This journal publishes two regular issues a year at which time the articles for that issue become available. We do not provide “early view” articles but will provide proofs to authors before publication as needed, e.g. for tenure and promotion files.

By “open access” to peer-reviewed research literature, we mean its free availability on the Internet, permitting any users to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full texts of these articles; crawl them for indexing, pass them as data to third parties, or gain access to them through a machine-readable database.

The only constraint on reproduction and distribution, and the only role for copyright in this context, are to give recognition to the author and primary source of information.

This is from the journal’s website, in the “About” section, you will find information about peer review and open access.
9. Go to the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) and input the title of the journal, uncheck the “articles” option under the search box, then click search.

10. If the journal is listed in the DOAJ, you will find a record in the results list.

***The green checkmark confirms this is a verified open access journal by the DOAJ and you will also find information about peer review. If the journal is both listed in the DOAJ and uses blinded peer review, you can use the journal article in your assignment.
Instead of using Ulrich’s Periodicals Directory

11a. Alternatively, you can instead Google the journal title, the ISSN for the journal and the phrase "peer review" to locate the journal homepage online.
11b. Once you have located the journal homepage, look for a description of the journal, an About Us section, or Aims and Scope, Submit/Submission a paper section, or Author guidelines/instructions. You are trying to locate the type of peer review this journal uses.
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***If you can confirm that the journal uses blinded peer review using information from their website, and it is not open access, you can now cite the article in your assignment.***