Wikis and Wikipedia: What's A Teacher To Do?

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towikiornottowiki.pbwiki.com

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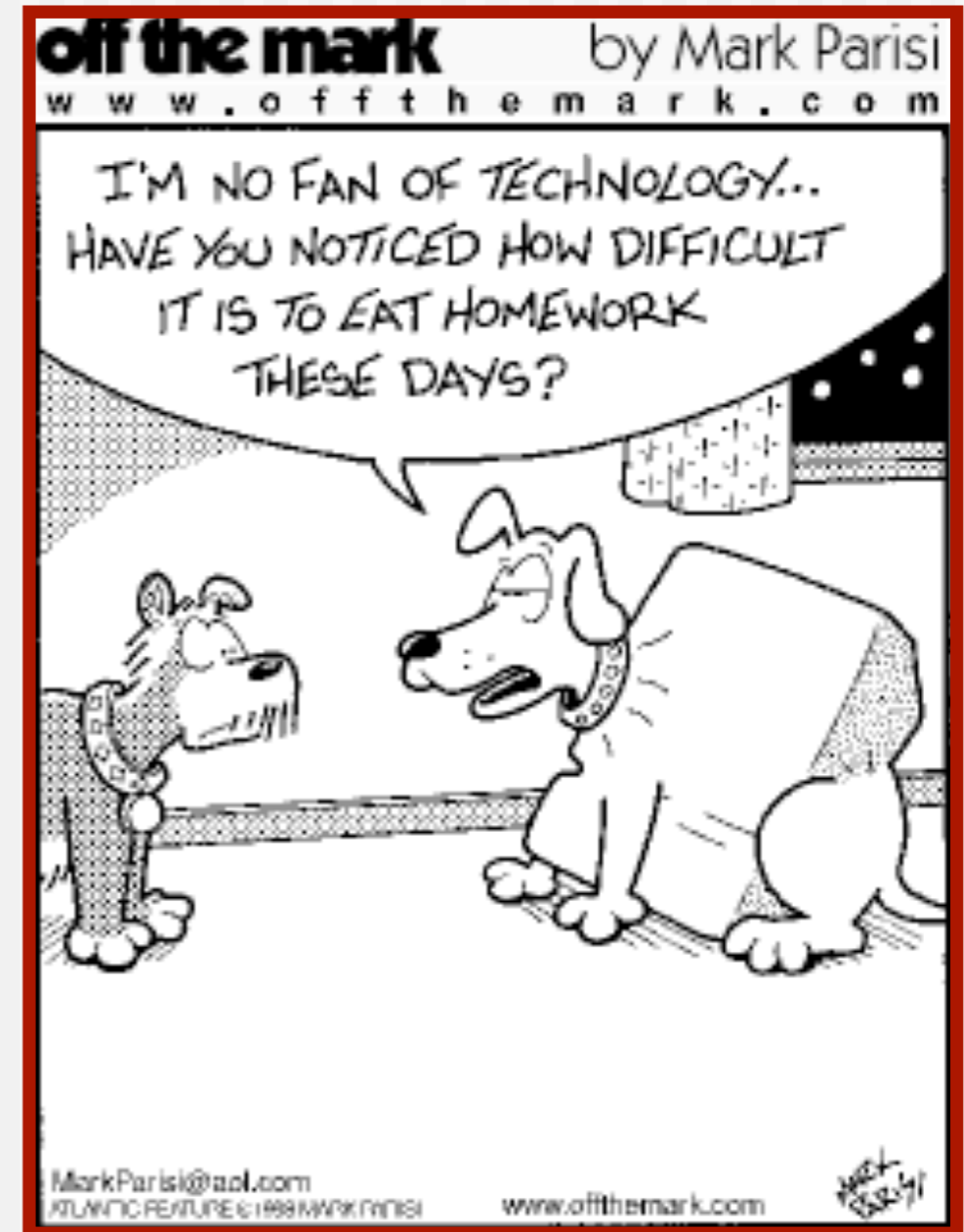# CREATING A PEACE PLAN: USING WIKIS TO MAKE GLOBAL CONNECTIONS
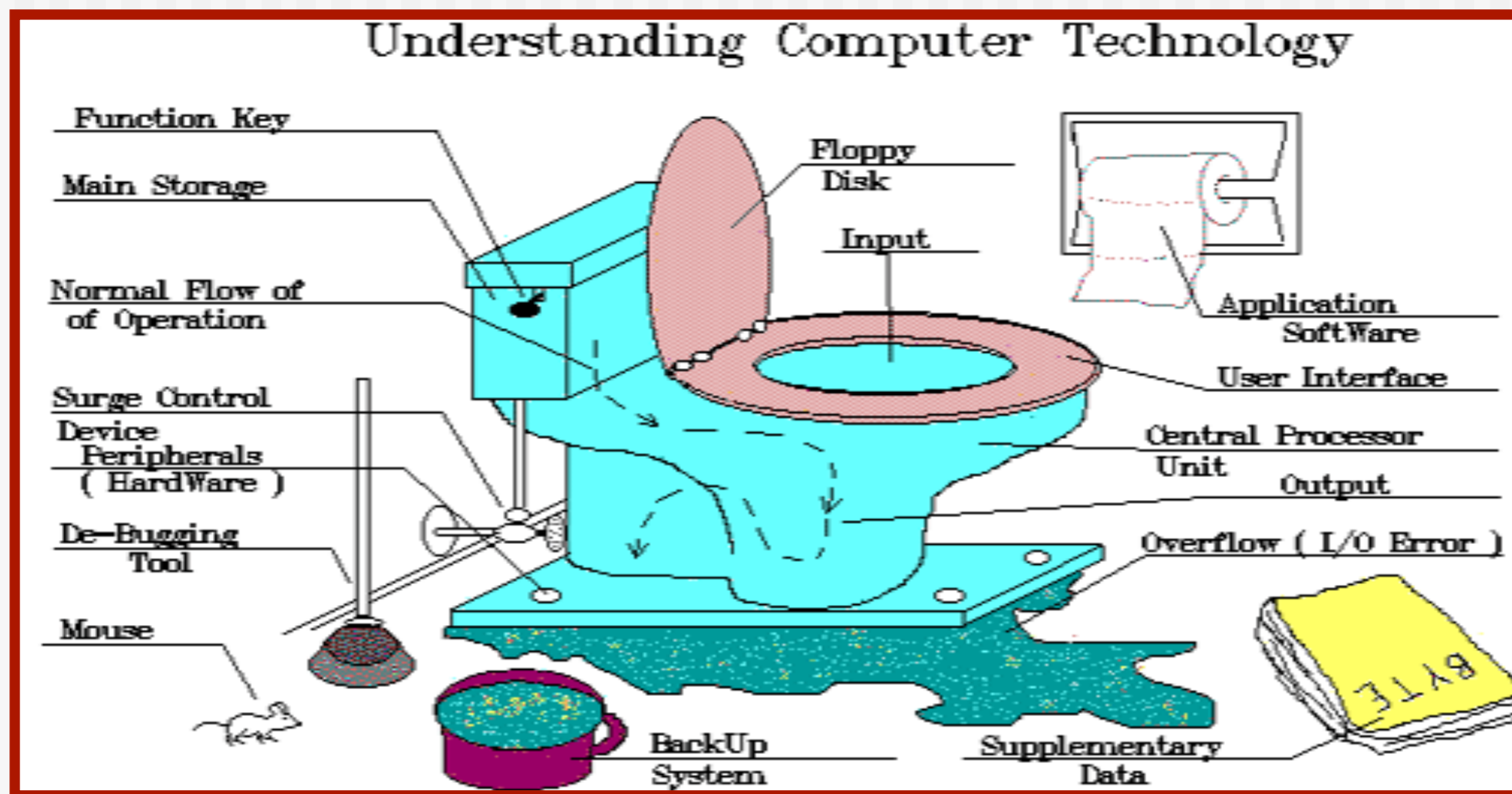
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Today's Presentation

- New Literacy
- Constructionism
- Wikis
- epals

How many have this view of computer technology?

What Defines Literacy?

- *functional:* doing things with words
- *social:* always involving communication according to some social purpose, and
- *shaped by contextual variables:* technology advancements to facilitate communication

New Literacies? (*Eshet-Alkalai, 2004*)

- *photo-visual literacy:* reading and following instructions from graphical displays
- *reproduction literacy:* using digital reproduction to design new meaningful material from existing sources
- *branching literacy:* utilizing hypermedia to conduct non-linear research
- *information literacy*: evaluating the quality and validity of information
- *social-emotional digital literacy:* ability to collaboratively build knowledge by sharing, evaluating, and analyzing data in a digital environment.
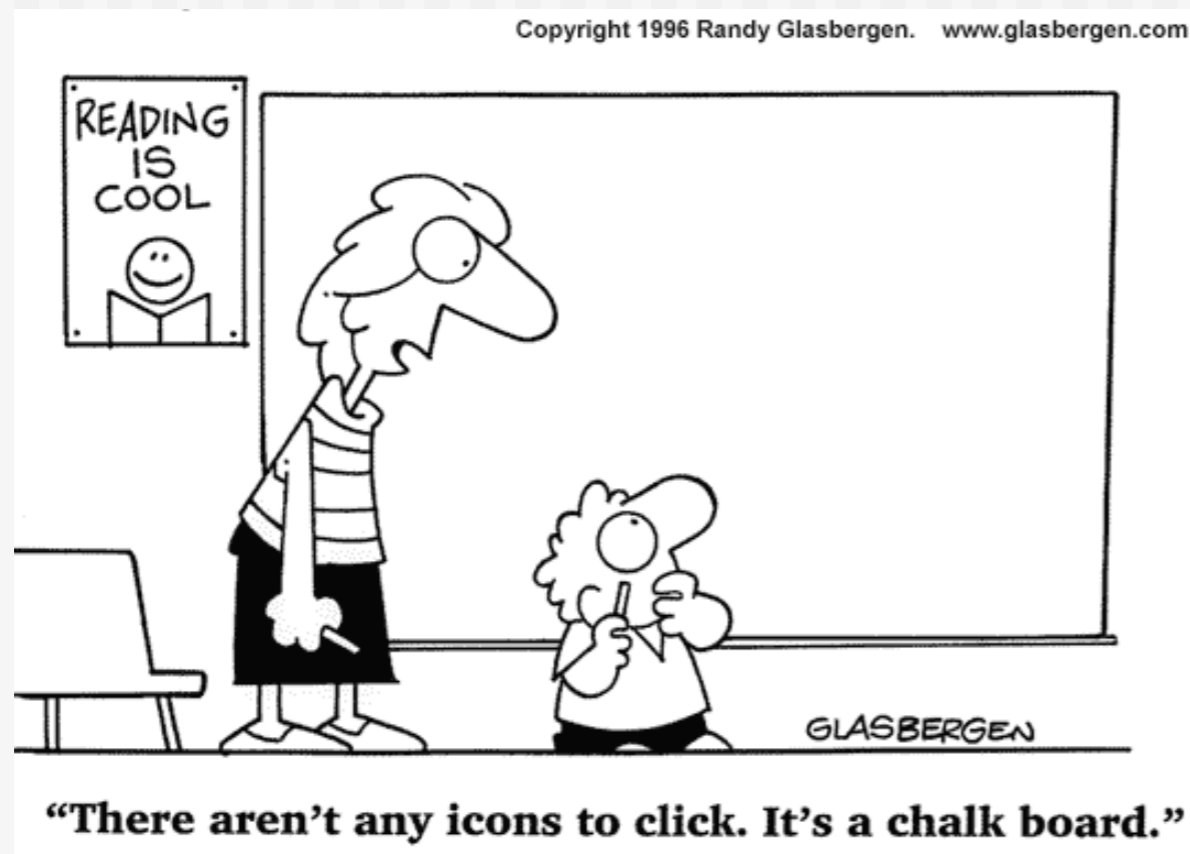
Social Constructionism

First - what is constructivism?

Social Constructionism

- People construct knowledge & reality through human interaction (Berger and Luckmann, 1966)

- Humans create common realities, understandings, and knowledge - as they act upon these their common knowledge of reality becomes reinforced

- In a sense, knowledge is socially constructed

Social Constructionism

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READING IS COOL

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"There aren't any icons to click. It's a chalk board."
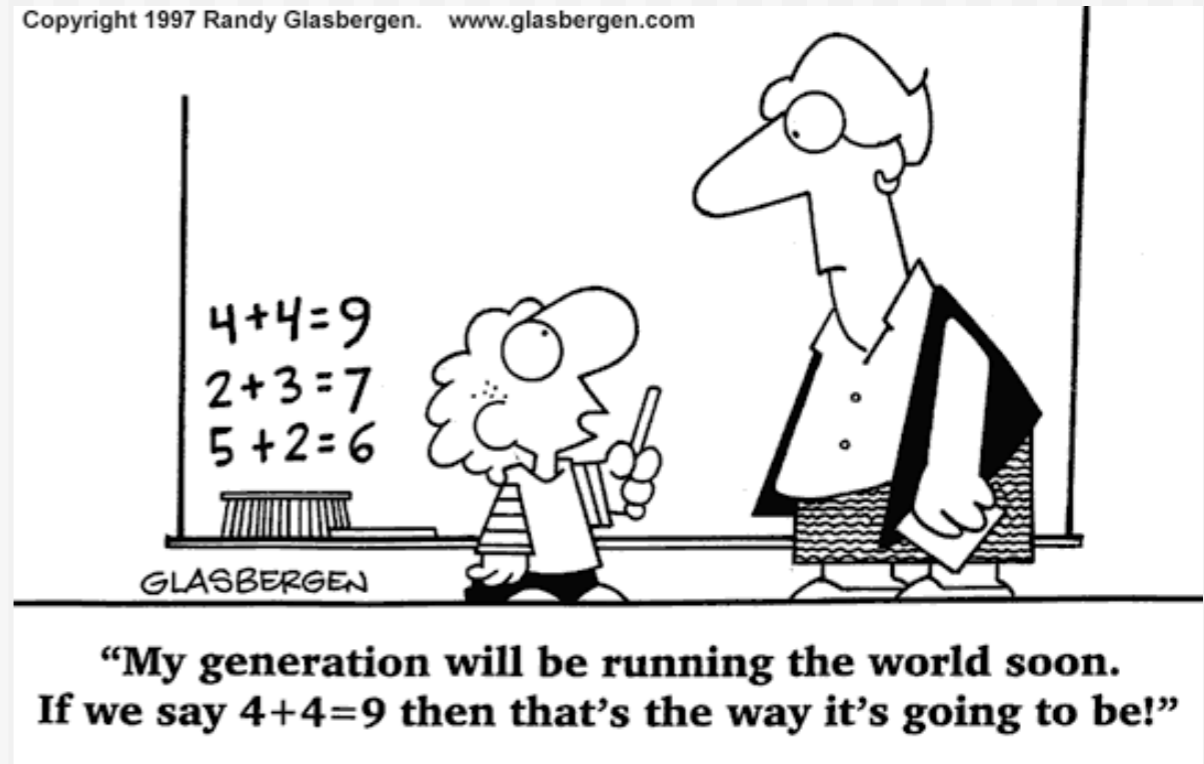
- How can we use computer technology to allow students to construct knowledge?
- How can classrooms collaborate over distances?

Wikis - what are they about?

- What is a wiki?
- Who is using them?
- Are they effective?
- What is the impact?
- Pitfalls?
- Future of wikis?

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"My generation will be running the world soon.
If we say 4+4=9 then that's the way it's going to be!"

Leuf, B. & Cunningham, W., 2001

What is a wiki?

- Web page
  - Pictures
  - Sound
  - Video
- Modified by anyone with Internet access
  - Changes are instantaneous
- Allows asynchronous collaboration
  - Groups can edit work independently of each other

Leuf, B. & Cunningham, W., 2001

Who is using them?

- First appeared in the 1990s
  - Scientist and engineers
- Adapted as an instructional technology tool
  - *Wikipedia*
  - Now used in educational settings to allow groups to complete collaborative projects

Leuf, B. & Cunningham, W., 2001

Are they effective?

©Marty Bucella   http://members.aol.com/mjbtoons/index.html

"Are they real or is this a screensaver?"

- Due to their flexibility
  - Content can evolve
  - Differentiated instruction
  - Collaboration among a variety of populations
  - Always available

Leuf, B. & Cunningham, W., 2001

What is the impact?

"With this new technology, we'll be able to annoy five times as many customers as before."

- Allows global collaboration
- Track project's 'thought process'
- Students can create social knowledge
- Facilitates reflection of ideas

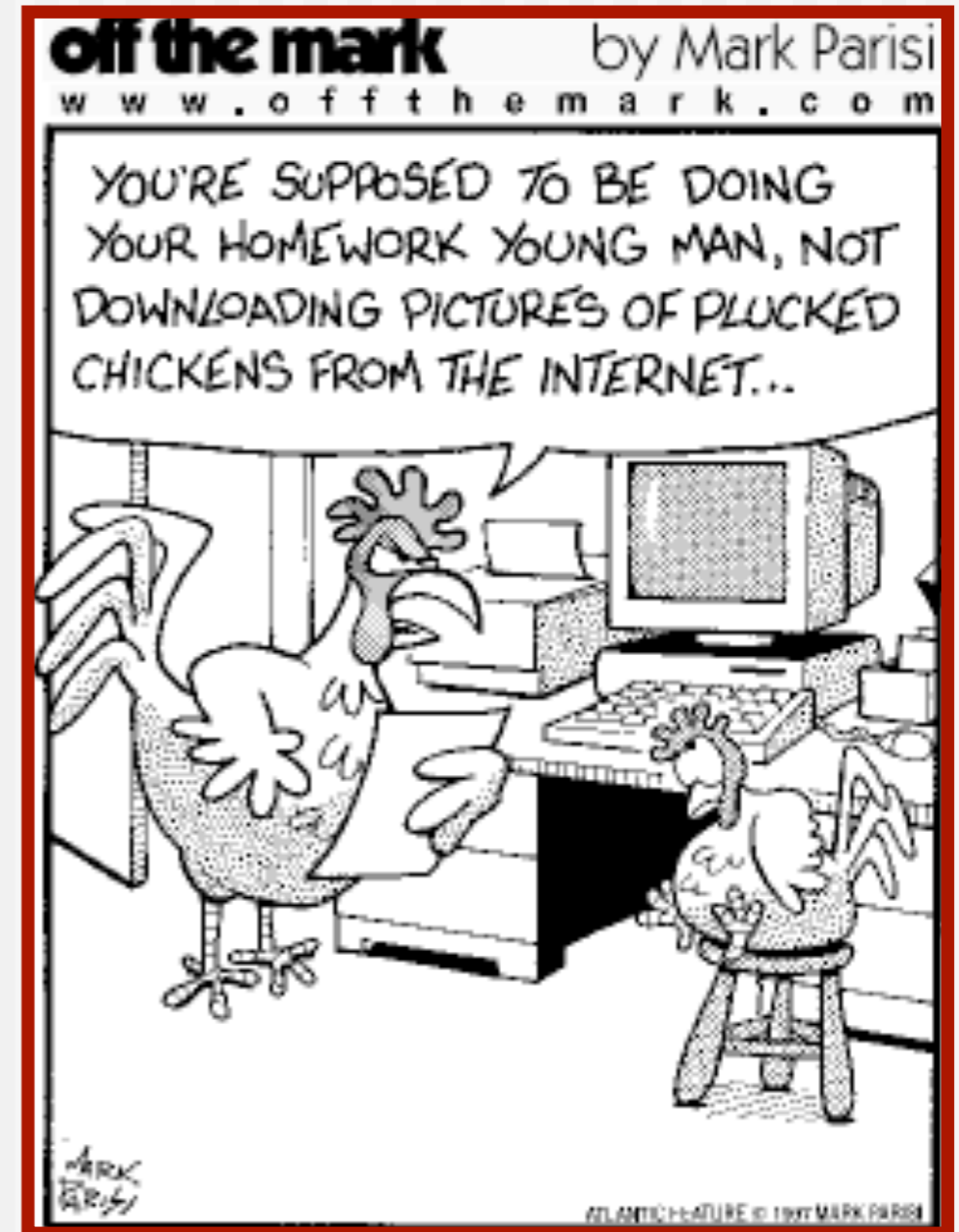*Leuf, B. & Cunningham, W., 2001*

Pitfalls?

- Anyone can edit the content
- Requires monitoring
- There is a group collective - ideas can change
- Access to technology

Leuf, B. & Cunningham, W., 2001

Future of Wikis?

Leuf, B. & Cunningham, W., 2001

Concluding Thoughts?

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To Wiki
Or
Not To Wiki?

Using Wikipedia to Teach Critical Thinking Skills

Brian C. Housand and Kristina Ayers Paul
http://towikiornottowiki.pbwiki.com

Who's Afraid Wikipedia?

Teachers worry that...

The information may not be accurate

Wikipedia is not trustworthy

You don't know where the information came from

Anyone can edit Wikipedia

"It's the first place I go when I am looking for knowledge, or I want to create some."

Stephen Colbert

A Brief Overview of Wikipedia

- Free, online encyclopedia

- Able to be edited by anyone

- Created January 15, 2001

- More than 75,000 active contributors

- 8,700,000 entries in over 250 languages

Vs.

What Everyone Should Know About Wikipedia

What Wikipedia is NOT

- A paper encyclopedia

- A publisher of original thought

  Do not include original research, original inventions, personal essays, discussion forums, or journalism

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:What_Wikipedia_is_not

What Wikipedia is NOT

- A Soapbox
  - Propaganda, advocacy, or recruitment
  - Opinion pieces
  - Self-promotion
  - Advertising

What Wikipedia is NOT

- A battleground

- An anarchy

- A democracy

- A bureaucracy

- Your webhost

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:What_Wikipedia_is_not

Featured Content

- 1650+ Featured Articles

  - Well written

  - Comprehensive

  - Factually accurate

  - Neutral

  - Stable

Grading Scheme

☐ Good Articles

○ articles considered to be of good quality but which are not yet, or are unlikely to be, featured article quality

☐ B Class

☐ Start

☐ Stub

The Five Pillars of Wikipedia

I. Wikipedia is an Encyclopedia

- Written for the benefit of its readers

- Three Principle Content Policies
    1. Neutral Point of View
    2. Verifiable
    3. No Original Research

1. Neutral Point of View

All Wikipedia articles and other encyclopedic content must be written from a neutral point of view (NPOV), representing fairly and without bias all significant views (that have been published by reliable sources). This is non-negotiable and expected on all articles, and of all article editors.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Neutral_point_of_view

2. Verifiable

"Verifiable" in this context means that any reader should be able to check that material added to Wikipedia has already been published by a reliable source. Editors should provide a reliable source for quotations and for any material that is challenged or is likely to be challenged, or it may be removed.

The burden of evidence lies with the editor who adds or restores material. The source should be cited clearly and precisely to enable readers to find the text that supports the article content in question.

If no reliable, third-party sources can be found for an article topic, Wikipedia should not have an article on it.

3. No Original Research

Original research (OR) is a term used in Wikipedia to refer to unpublished facts, arguments, concepts, statements, or theories. The term also applies to any unpublished analysis or synthesis of published material that appears to advance a position — or, in the words of Wikipedia's co-founder Jimmy Wales, would amount to a "novel narrative or historical interpretation."

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:No_original_research

II. Wikipedia Is Free Content

Anyone may edit.

Articles can be changed by anyone.

No individual owns any specific article.

If you don't want your writing to be edited mercilessly, do not submit it.

Do not submit copyrighted material.

III. Wikipedia Works By Building Consensus

Consensus decision-making is an inherent part of the wiki process.

Wikipedia is a living encyclopedia, so consensus can change.

The primary method of determining consensus is discussion, not voting.

Wikipedia is not an experiment in democracy, anarchy or any other political system.

IV. Wikipedia Has a Code of Conduct

- Act in good faith, and assume others are acting in good faith too.

- Be open and welcoming.

- Be civil.

- Respect your fellow Wikipedians even if you disagree with them.

- Avoid making personal attacks or sweeping generalizations.

- Never disrupt Wikipedia to illustrate a point.

- Avoid edit wars.

- Follow the three-revert rule.

- When a conflict arises, follow dispute resolution.

V. Wikipedia Does Not Have Firm Rules

- Other than these five principles

- Be bold in editing, moving, and modifying articles.

- Perfection is a goal and not a requirement.

- As all previous versions of articles are kept, content won't be irrevocably destroyed by an editor's mistake.

- Don't worry about messing up.

Researching with Wikipedia

- Always be wary of any one single source (in any medium–web, print, television or radio), or of multiple works that derive from a single source.

- Where articles have references to external sources (whether online or not) read the references and check whether they really do support what the article says.

- In all academic institutions, Wikipedia, along with most encyclopedias, is unacceptable as a major source for a research paper.

Special research considerations concerning Wikipedia

Use multiple independent sources

- Examine an article's history

- Internal links

- Categories

- Take advantage of "what links here"

- Take advantage of "printable version"

- Understand Wikipedia's biases

- Use Wikipedia's social process

- Look for comprehensive review

New Literacies

- Reading online is different than reading traditional text

- Understanding and Heeding Wikipedia Messages

    - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Template_messages

- Start with Wikipedia

- Triangulate

- Teach students to be critical consumers and responsible producers

Don't believe everything you read.

Critical Thinking Using Wikipedia

Revised Bloom's Taxonomy (2001)

The Cognitive Process Dimension

		1	2	3	4	5	6
		Remember	Understand	Apply	Analyze	Evaluate	Create
A	Factual Knowledge						
B	Conceptual Knowledge						
C	Procedural Knowledge						
D	Metacognitive Knowledge						

The Knowledge Dimension

Hold a mock trial with Wikipedia as the defendant.

Create an evaluation tool
for examining the quality of
a Wikipedia entry.

Watch the Presidential race through the candidates' pages.

Hold a Socratic seminar with Wikipedia as the "text."

Determine if categories of knowledge are complete.

Write an article for a topic that is missing.

Hold a debate on creating a school policy for or against the use of Wikipedia in school research.

Develop of list of categories that Wikipedia articles would fall into regarding their purpose.

Determine which categories of knowledge are more difficult to build. Why?

Visit the presentation wiki at
towikiornottowiki.pbwiki.com