

# Wikipedia and Education

Around the World  
a bird's-eye view

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**Wikipedia +  
Education = ?**

**Wikipedia +  
Education = 😡**

**Wikipedia +  
Education = 😲**

**Wikipedia +  
Education = 😊**

**Wikipedia +  
Education = 😎**

# **Wikipedia belongs in education**

[education.wikimedia.org](https://education.wikimedia.org)

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# **Wikipedia + Education = ?**

Ukrainian Wikipedia rough stats: ~1000 active editors; of whom ~150 very active; ~1 million page views a day; ~650K articles

**Wikipedia +  
Education = 😡**

Wikipedia may seem like an enemy of traditional education: disruption; non-traditional authority; [un]reliability

# Wikipedia + Education = 😲

But at its best, Wikipedia can be a friend to education in both familiar (it's an encyclopedia) and new ways: a tool to teach information literacy; a more nuanced narrative than traditional encyclopedias; an opportunity to participate in (and learn about) the process of knowledge production, with its numerous attendant questions and dilemmas.

# Wikipedia + Education = 😊

Why is **Wikipedia** happy: more content; diversity; more editors.

Why are **educators** happy: exciting and modern way of involving students in academic discipline and knowledge production; less monotonous than grading identical papers; challenging and stimulating each semester anew

Why are **students** happy: exciting and modern way of doing assignments; feeling they contribute to humankind, not just writing a paper for their professor or teaching assistant; their work lives on, past the semester end, and \*will be improved and built on\* by others; learning diverse skills (information literacy; critical thinking; citation; translation; media literacy; peer review)

**Numbers:** more than 15K students worldwide since 2010; more than 20K of articles created

**In addition** to the "standard" academic model of writing Wikipedia articles as academic assignments in the context of a university course, here are some of the **other awesome ways** Wikipedia is used in Education around the world: **Egypt**, translation courses translate good articles from English, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Spanish, and Turkish. **Greece**, adult learners edit Wikipedia about Greek villages and folklore as part of their literacy and computer skills training. **Czech Republic**, hundreds of senior citizens (aged 65+) have contributed hundreds of articles. In the **United States**, students in design courses created scientific and other illustrations for Wikipedia.

# Wikipedia + Education = 😎

Success factors:

- Start small, grow smart
- Be transparent and work with the community
- Teach to student ability
- Focus on motivation
- Use tech tools to make work easier
- Set goals and track progress

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