Wikipedia for College Information Literacies and Academic Identities

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1. Context – what is going on?

2. How Wikipedia as a cultural technique fights fake news

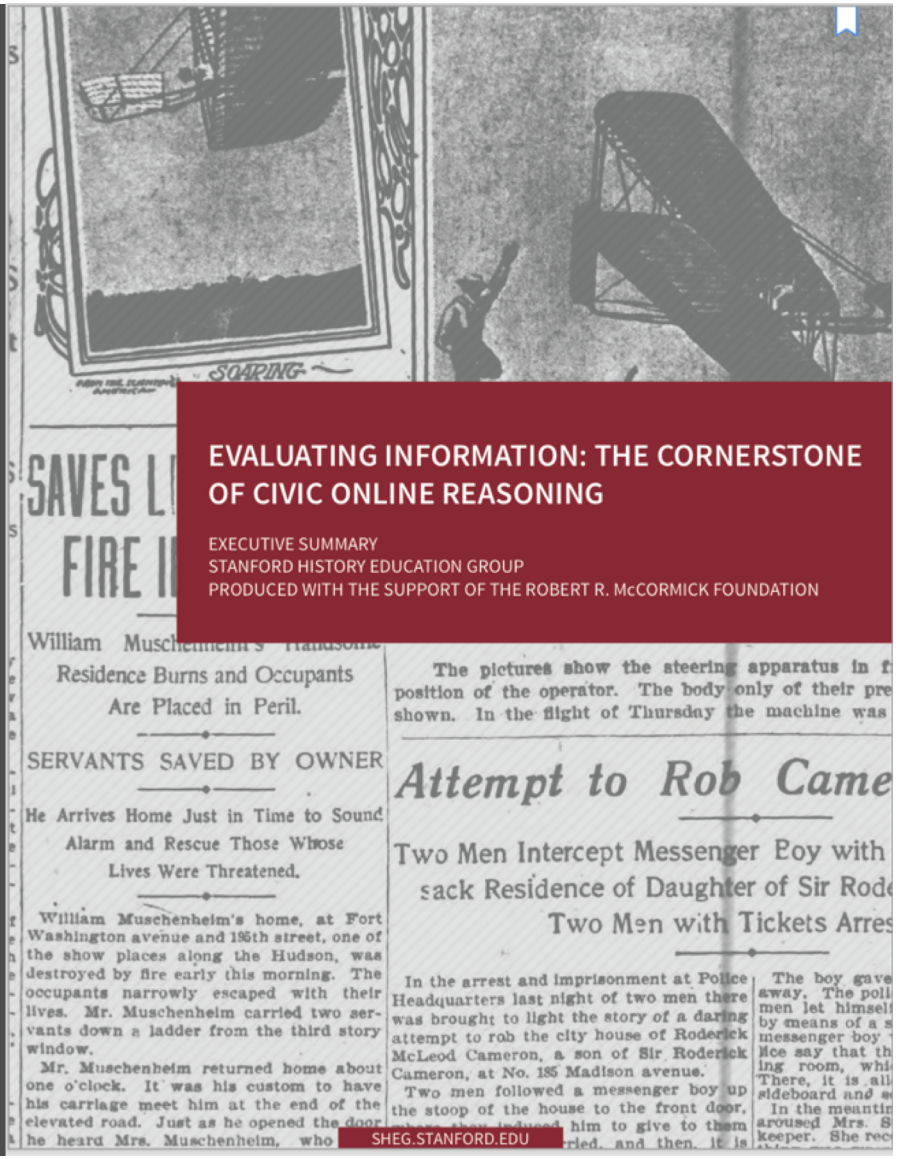
3. How Wikipedia creates academic identities

3. What does this look like? Teaching Wikipedia as resistance

1. Context – what is going on?

“Overall, young people’s ability to reason about the information on the Internet can be summed up in one word: *bleak*.”

“Evaluating Information: The Cornerstone of Civic Online Reasoning”, Stanford University, 2016



"...students I met were being told that Wikipedia was untrustworthy and were, instead, being encouraged to do *research*."

"They heard that Google was trustworthy and Wikipedia was not."

- danah boyd, author of *It's Complicated: The Social Lives of Networked Teens*

Abstinence-only Wikipedia education doesn’t work

2. How Wikipedia as a cultural technique fights fake news

“Wikipedia exists to battle fake news. That's the whole point”

How Wikipedia dodged public outcry plaguing social media platforms

Published on August 24, 2018

Pete Forsyth | Follow

Wikipedia expert. I can help ...

30 4 10

Source: https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/how-wikipedia-dodged-public-outcry-plaguing-social-media-pete-forsyth/

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Fake news

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

This article is about the type of hoax. For the online type and the websites that specialize in it, see Fake news website. For other uses, see Fake news (disambiguation).

Fake news is a type of yellow journalism or propaganda that consists of deliberate misinformation or hoaxes spread via traditional print and broadcast news media or online social media.[1][2] This false information is mainly distributed by social media, but is periodically circulated through mainstream media.[3] Fake news is written and published with the intent to mislead in order to damage an agency, entity, or person, and/or gain financially or politically,[4][5][6] often using sensationalist, dishonest, or outright fabricated headlines to increase readership, online sharing, and Internet click revenue. In the latter case, it is similar to sensational online "clickbait" headlines and relies on advertising revenue generated from this activity, regardless of the veracity of the published stories.[4] Intentionally misleading and deceptive fake news is different from obvious satire or parody, which is intended to amuse rather than mislead its audience.

Reporters with various forms of "fake news" from an 1894 illustration by Frederick Burr Opper

The relevance of fake news has increased in post-truth politics. For media outlets, the ability to attract viewers to their websites is necessary to generate online advertising revenue. If publishing a story with false content attracts users, it may be worthy of producing in order to benefit advertisers and ratings. Easy access to online advertisement revenue, increased political polarization, and the popularity of social media,[1] primarily the Facebook News Feed,[1] have all been implicated in the spread of fake news,[4][7] which has come to provide competition for legitimate news stories. Hostile government actors have also been implicated in generating and propagating fake news, particularly during elections.[8]

Fake news also undermines serious media coverage and makes it more difficult for journalists to cover significant news stories.[9] An analysis by Buzzfeed found that the top 20 fake news stories about the 2016 U.S. presidential election received more engagement on Facebook than the top 20 news stories on the election from 19 major media outlets.[10] Anonymously-hosted fake news websites[1] lacking known publishers have also been criticized, because they make it difficult to prosecute sources of fake news for libel.[11]

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Source: https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/how-wikipedia-dodged-public-outcry-plaguing-social-media-pete-forsyth/

- It doesn't try to predict and guide what you encounter online.
- It doesn't capture and analyze user data.
- Unlike ***all*** the other top web sites, does ***not*** track your browsing history.

(Wikipedia as a cultural technique)

+

(Wikipedia as an Interface)

-

(Tracking / Prediction / Advertisements)

=

Experiential Epistemology

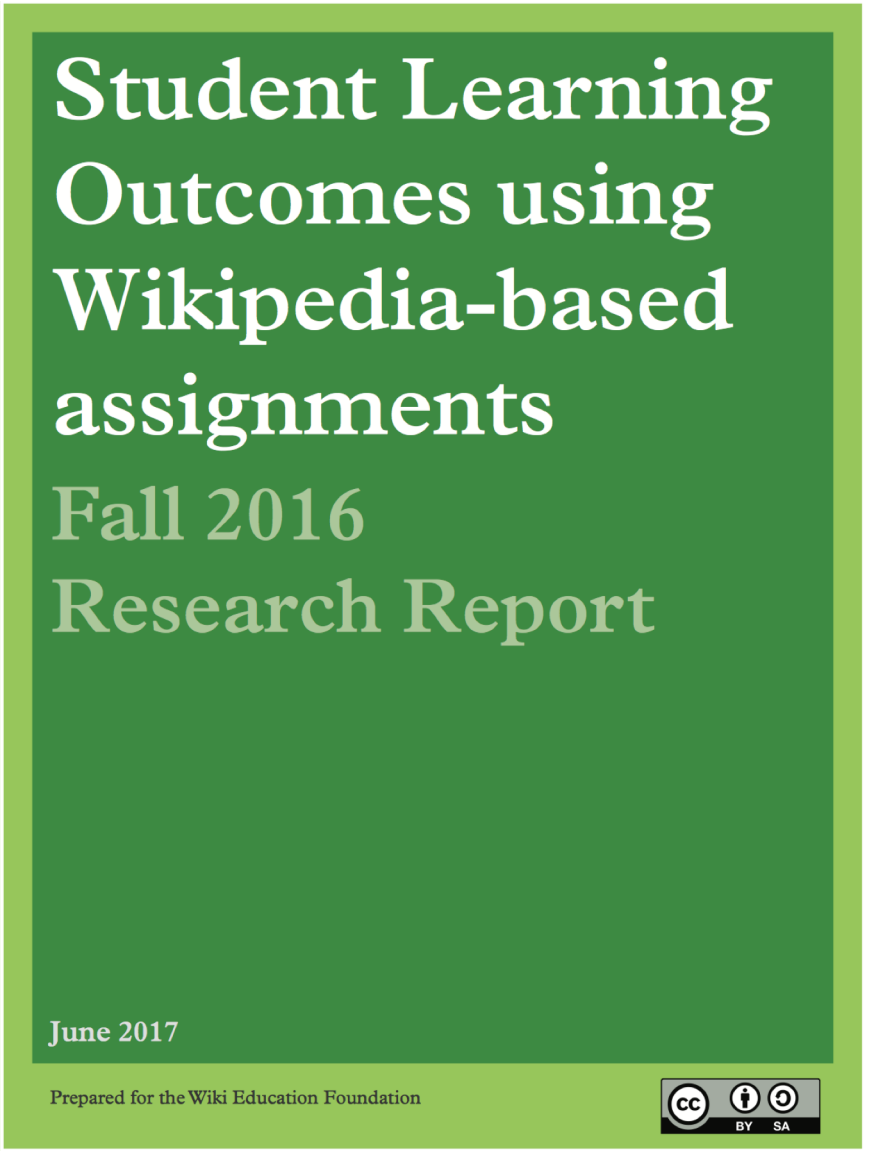
3. How does Wikipedia create academic identities?

4. What does this look like? Teaching Wikipedia as resistance (aka “I have evidence!”)

Fall 2016 Student Learning Outcomes study

- Total 1627 Students (survey)
- Three surveys across semester
- 96 Instructors (survey)
- 13 class focus groups (+200 participants)
- Open data and methods

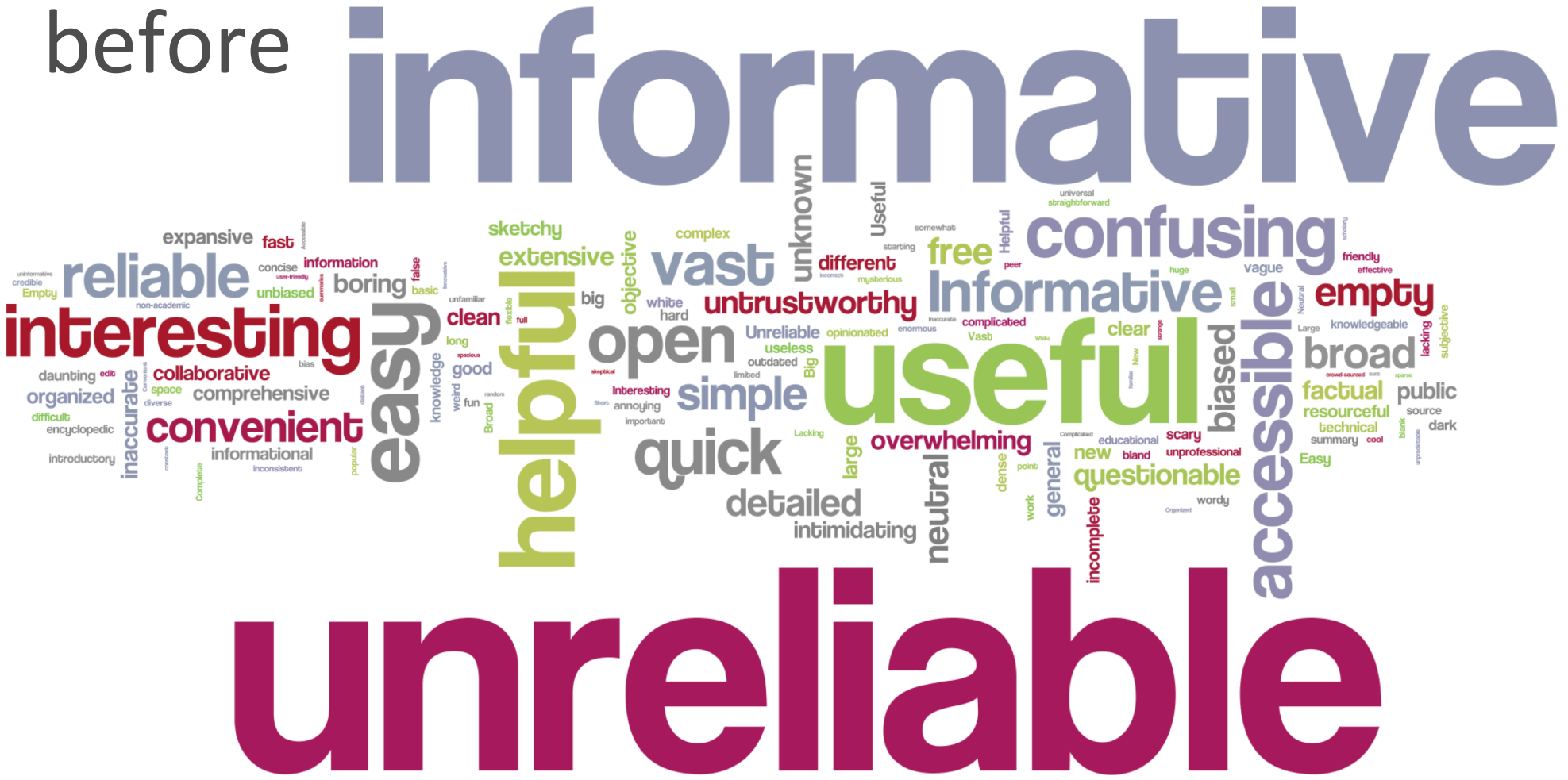
Source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Student_Learning_Outcomes_using_Wikipedia-based_Assignments_Fall_2016_Research_Report.pdf



Major findings

- More time spent on assignments
- More satisfaction with work
- More perceived value for transferable skills
- Shifting perceptions of Wikipedia / knowledge production in general

before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helpful
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thorough
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still
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evolving
Concise
Helpful
trustworthy
Easy
Reputable
crowd-sourced
understandable
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Accessible
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comfortable
valuable
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inconsistent
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dedicated
great
flexible
biased
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questionable
better
involved
clean
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challenging
specific
creative
time-consuming
Interesting
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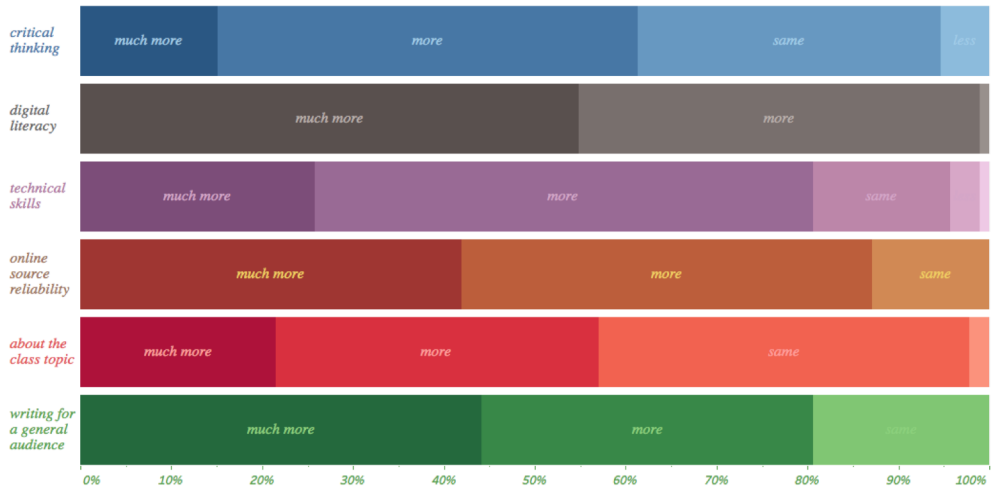
insightful
collaboration
new
engaging
dark
long
growing
fairly
friendly
Neutral
strict
different
personal
cool
sexist
appropriate
Convenient
community/based
Organized
fluid
random
sometimes
transparent
intriguing
assessors
empty
scarcity
vague
endless
useless

In comparison with a traditional assignment, **instructors** value Wikipedia assignments for learning



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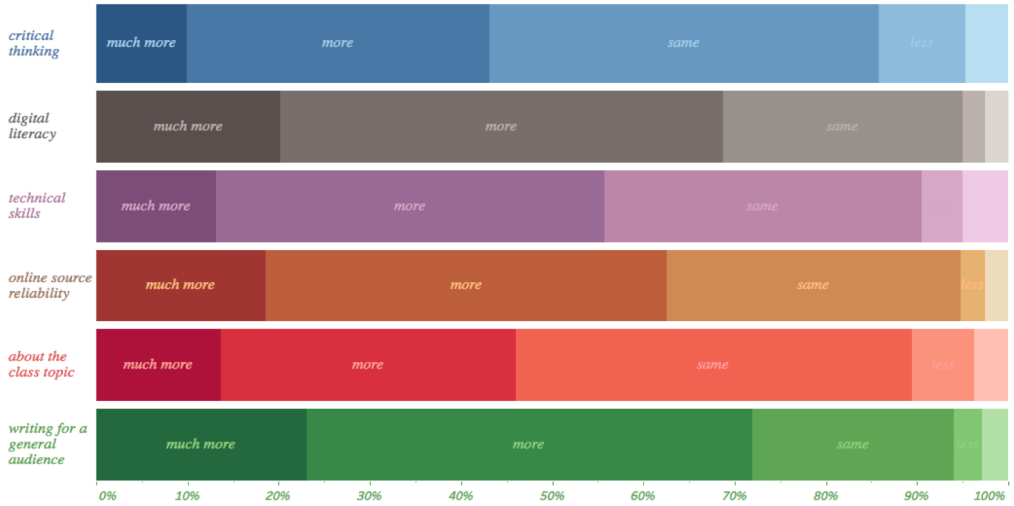

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What is happening?
(preliminary qualitative analysis)

Learning critical information skills

“I think you're a lot more … you have much more of a questioning mentality and ***you're a lot more conscious of the validity of the information that you read.”***

Finding a purpose

“***I have trouble getting myself to do [my papers] sometimes just because I'm like, "Why?"*** But this, I was like I'm contributing to something bigger and it's public. ***So, I felt more motivation to go in and edit it and whatever. “***

“I think also the fact that it's public facing instead of just for a teacher. ***You're definitely more motivated to do something good that everybody approves, not just a teacher.*** Maybe you don't care about grades too much. Maybe you have an opinion about your teacher. That's irrelevant… ***you make those changes and you have something that stands, you feel good about yourself.”***

Making a difference

“One thing I realized is, ***a lot of the stuff that we're writing about is very interconnected… I would try to link stuff and then it wouldn't work - there would be no page… it's not random, the information that's missing from Wikipedia.*** It's a history of the knowledge of the events that have been documented and historicized in the world, and that's what's on Wikipedia right now.”

So what?

Edit a better future.

(Thank you)

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