

Why Wikipedia?

Students share knowledge where knowledge matters

The idea behind the **Wikipedia Education Program** is simple: educators and students around the world contribute to Wikipedia in an academic setting.

- the **sixth** most popular website in the world.
- **500 million** unique visitors each month.
- Available in **287** languages.
- User generated content with more than **30 million** articles.
- Non-profit, free access and free from ads.

Real-World Impact for Students

Imagine a world in which every single human being can freely share in the sum of all knowledge. The Wikimedia Foundation's mission is to **empower and engage people** around the world to make this vision reality, with **free, online educational content accessible everywhere**. The Wikipedia Education Program supports this mission through by working with **volunteers, educators and students around the world**.

Program History

Since Wikipedia began in 2001, educators around the world have integrated the free encyclopedia that anyone can edit into their curriculum.

In 2010, the non-profit organisation Wikimedia Foundation started the Wikipedia Education Program to provide more support for educators who are interested in using Wikipedia as a teaching tool.

Free knowledge

Defining the "Open" in Open Content

Wikipedia is the free encyclopedia which anyone can edit and it is licensed in a manner that provides any user with free and perpetual permission to engage in the 5R activities:

- Retain** - the right to make, own, and control copies of the content (e.g., download, duplicate, store, and manage)
- Reuse** - the right to use the content in a wide range of ways (e.g., in a class, in a study group, on a website, in a video)
- Revise** - the right to adapt, adjust, modify, or alter the content itself (e.g., translate the content into another language)
- Remix** - the right to combine the original or revised content with other open content to create something new (e.g., incorporate the content into a mashup)
- Redistribute** - the right to share copies of the original content, your revisions, or your remixes with others with other open content to create something new (e.g., give a copy of the content to a friend)



More than
10,000 students
have added more than
12 million words
to free knowledge.



Student learning

Students learn skills beyond a greater understanding of the course topic they write on, including:

- **Information literacy:** Students identify bias and partisanship; particularly with respect to Wikipedia, students recognize whether an article is credible or not. Increasing the students' information literacy skills also means that they are less likely to use Wikipedia for copy-and-paste.
- **Critical thinking:** In contrast to many class assignments which require an argumentative or persuasive paper, Wikipedia's neutral point of view policy helps students think about class material in a new way.
- **Expository writing:** Students practice writing in an encyclopedic summary style.
- **Collaboration:** Students work with classmates and other editors to develop high quality encyclopedia articles.
- **Research:** Students get a lot of practice finding and summarizing appropriate sources for their topic.

Wikipedia Education Program

Learning Resources



Instructional materials and classroom assignments.



Online training and course page set up.



Partnerships and advanced workshop training.



Community interaction and peer review.

Open Badges

Wikimedia Sweden issues Open badges to recognise contributions from educators and students, and to validate skills and achievements.



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