For a while my views of Wikipedia have been that of many high school performing arts educators. It was my understanding that Wikipedia was a free-for-all and definitely not the place where it would be an exchange of viable information. When I was a kid we had the encyclopedia Britannica which housed what felt like all the information you needed. It was a series of books that contained so much information it felt like you would never be able to read it all. As I watched the video, "What About Wikipedia", I started realizing that Wikipedia was treating its platform for information as a living and breathing document that changes as information evolves and updates.

I think using Wikipedia the way it was described in the video will help students learn because they are investing their own research, their own ideas, and their own thought processes into this living document. They have a personal investment that they have to defend. This also jump starts the opportunity for students to begin voicing their knowledge to those around them and publishing their thoughts and ideas. Wikipedia opens the door for healthy debates. In Wikipedia's "talk" page, students can see all the amendments created over time for each entry. When students publish their ideas and thoughts and another person comes by and disproves or challenges those thoughts and beliefs two people are learning simultaneously.

I do see the value in using Wikipedia in education. While reading what students can learn by writing for Wikipedia,I was able to identify how students are taking ownership of their own learning and adapting those concepts in school. Instead of reading a passage to "answer a question", they are applying that passage to text based evidence, analyzing the text, and formulating their opinion on that information. They are evaluating information in order to contribute to a community of researchers. They are being creators instead of passive consumers!

Wikipedia has given students the opportunity to be a digital citizen in our global society. In the article, "Teaching Students How To Use Wikipedia Wisely", Benjamin Barbour articulates how students can conduct research and can discern fact from fiction. While using that as a framework, Piotr Konieczny created a few tools and lesson plan structures in order to assist teachers in their quest to help students become responsible digital citizens. In his article, a subtopic informs educators how to "Build a Good Wikipedia Assignment and Tailor It For Your Course."

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