Wikipedia Edit-a-thon Basics

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#muddwiki

The Five Pillars of Wikipedia

- Wikipedia is an encyclopedia.

- Wikipedia is written from a neutral point of view.

- Wikipedia is free content that anyone can edit, use, modify, and distribute.

- Editors should interact with each other in a respectful and civil manner.

- Wikipedia does not have firm rules.

Notability

Subject must receive *significant* coverage in *reliable sources* that are *independent* of the subject

No Original Research

Wikipedia does not accept: *facts*, *allegations*, *ideas*, and *stories* for which no reliable published source exists.

Secret: Oral history that is published online is able to be used, as long as only the facts are delivered.
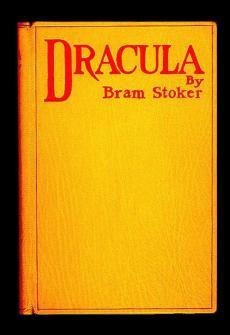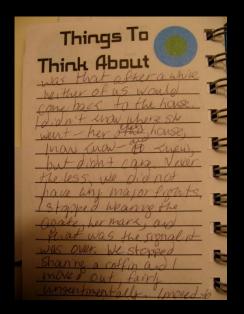
Appropriate Sources

Anything that could be *challenged* must be backed up by a reliable source.

A reliable source is published by a trusted news source or publisher.

Secondary sources are preferred. Primary sources are acceptable for supporting evidence but not as the main source of reportage.

WHAT NOT TO USE

- Self-published sources
  - Ex. Blogs, patents, newsletters, personal websites, forums, tweets
  - Facebook, Tumblr, Twitter, Myspace, other social media
- Self-created
  - Press release by sponsoring organization

WHAT TO USE

- Legitimate news sources
  - NYT, Washington Post, non-biased (as in not owned by/party to the topic about which you're writing)
- Academic, peer-reviewed, scholarly articles
- Blog from a reliable source, such as an institutional blog or news source blog (NYT)

Conflict of Interest

Where advancing outside interests is more important to an editor than advancing the aims of Wikipedia

- Example: Writing or editing your own institution's Wikipedia page without secondary sources and using peacock words
- Example: Adding external links to your general website on Wikipedia pages (self-promotion)
- Example: Creating an institutional account called "MuddLibrary" to serve as a group account for edits

Conflict of Interest

- DO create a user account for yourself as an individual

- DO create a userpage that describes your position, institution, and area of expertise

- DO edit as yourself, NOT as your institution

- DO improve articles and content related to your passion & interests; you know the right sources & tools to improve Wikipedia!

Go here for more information about today's event:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Meetup/Princeton_University_Edit-a-thon

Works Cited

Text modified from Stierch, Sarah. "Sourcing, original research, notability and conflict of interest," presented at the Smithsonian Institution, 2011. "CC-BY-SA 3.0 Unported." (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/legalcode) http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:GLAM/US/Bookshelf#Wikipedia_basics_for_GLAMs

Images:

Slide 1: Mudd Library: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:2011-02-02_08-41-21_182_Mudd_Manuscript_Library.jpg

Blair Arch: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Blair_Arch_and_Buyers_Hall,_Princeton_University.jpg

Slide 3: Shirley Tilghman, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Shirley_Tilghman.jpg

Slide 4: Pecan pie, http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Vegan_Gluten-Free_Pecan_Pie.jpg

Slide 5: Cover of Dracula, http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Dracula1st.jpeg

Original notes by Undead q, circa 2009.