

# Wikipedia Education Program

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Instructors assign their students to contribute content to Wikipedia during the academic term,

supported by trained Wikipedia mentors (“Wikipedia Ambassadors”).



# Overview

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- ❖ Background
- ❖ The Wikipedia Education Program
- ❖ Benefits & challenges



1.

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# Background





# Overview: Wikipedia

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Wikipedia...

- ❖ is the 5th most visited website
- ❖ exists in more than 270 languages
- ❖ is supported by a non-profit and spends \$0 on advertising





# Overview: Wikipedia

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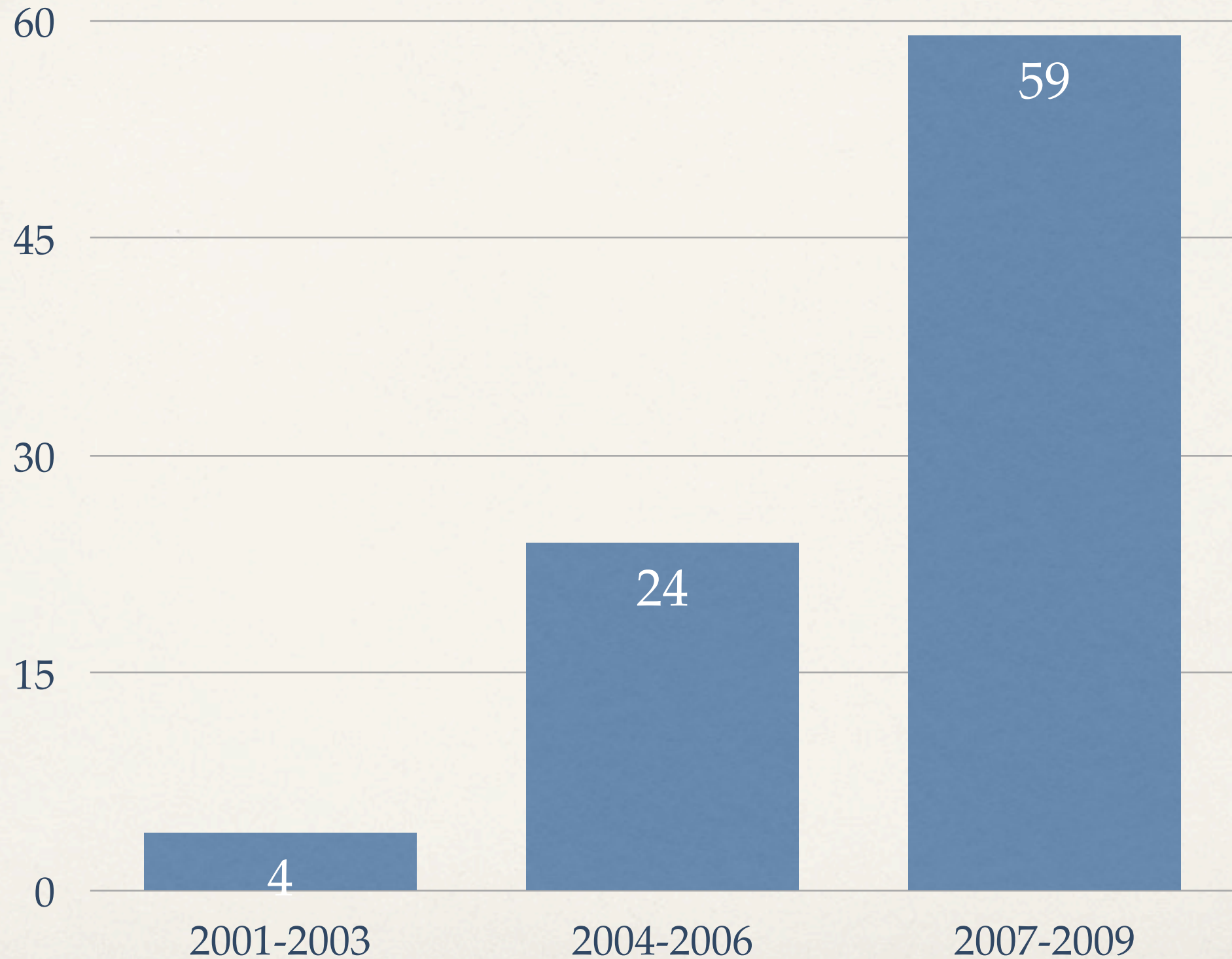
What makes Wikipedia work is

- \* commitment to sharing knowledge freely
- \* 80,000+ active editors
- \* anyone can edit

Imagine a world  
in which every  
single person on  
the planet is given  
free access to the  
sum of all human  
knowledge.



# University projects on the English Wikipedia





Wikipedia in  
Education

“support”





## 2. Wikipedia Education Program

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# How it works

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Instructor

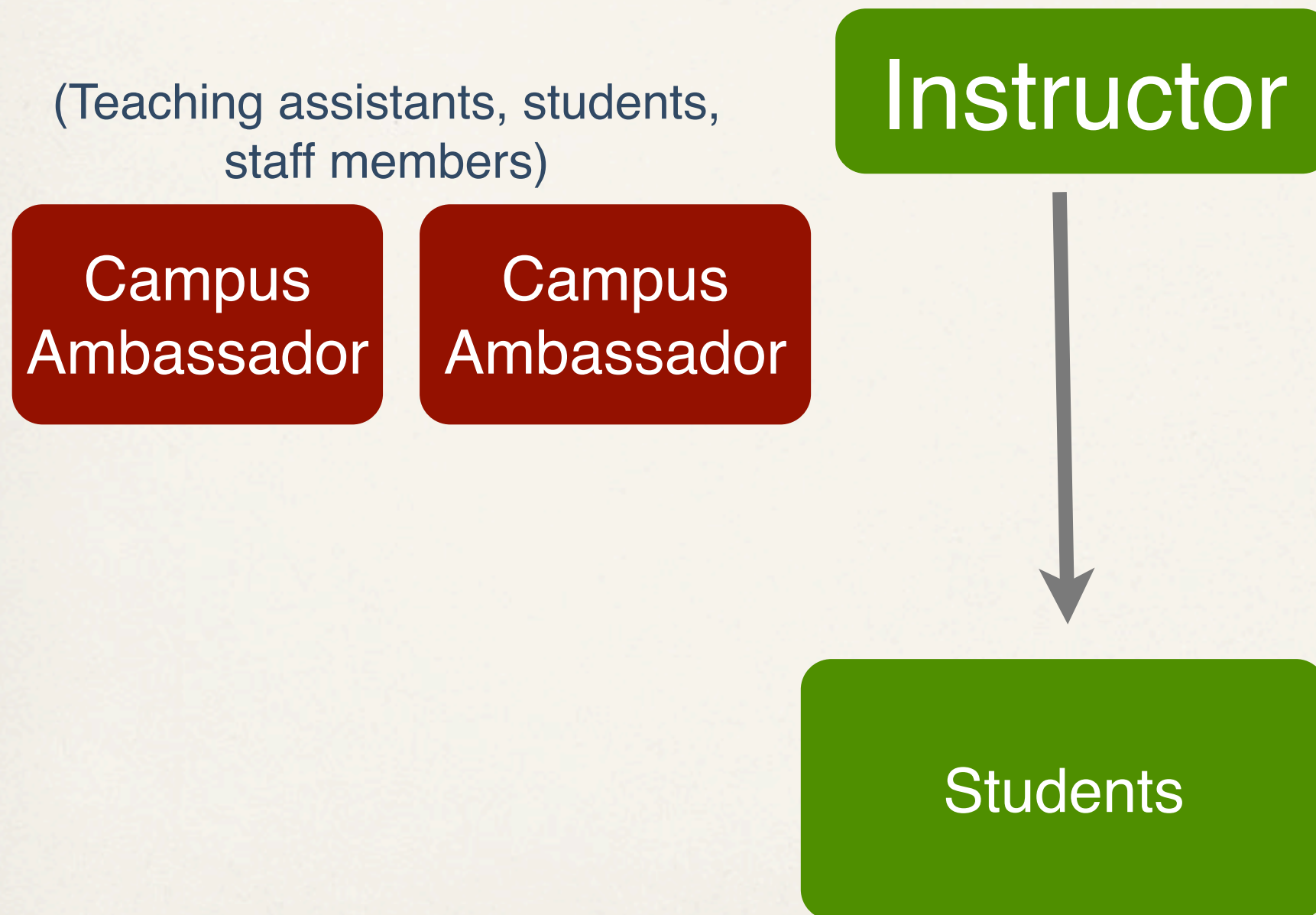


Students



# How it works

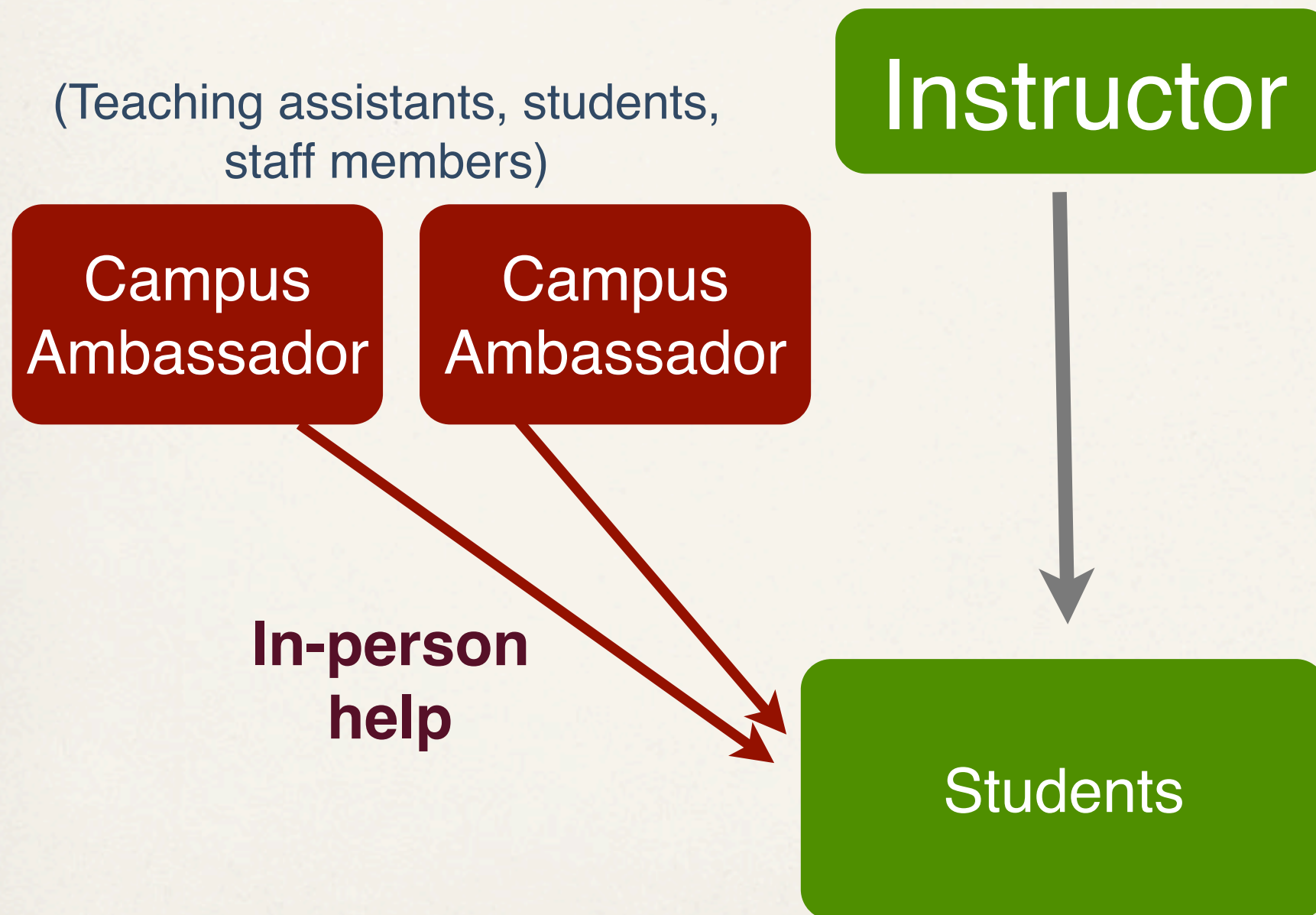
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# How it works

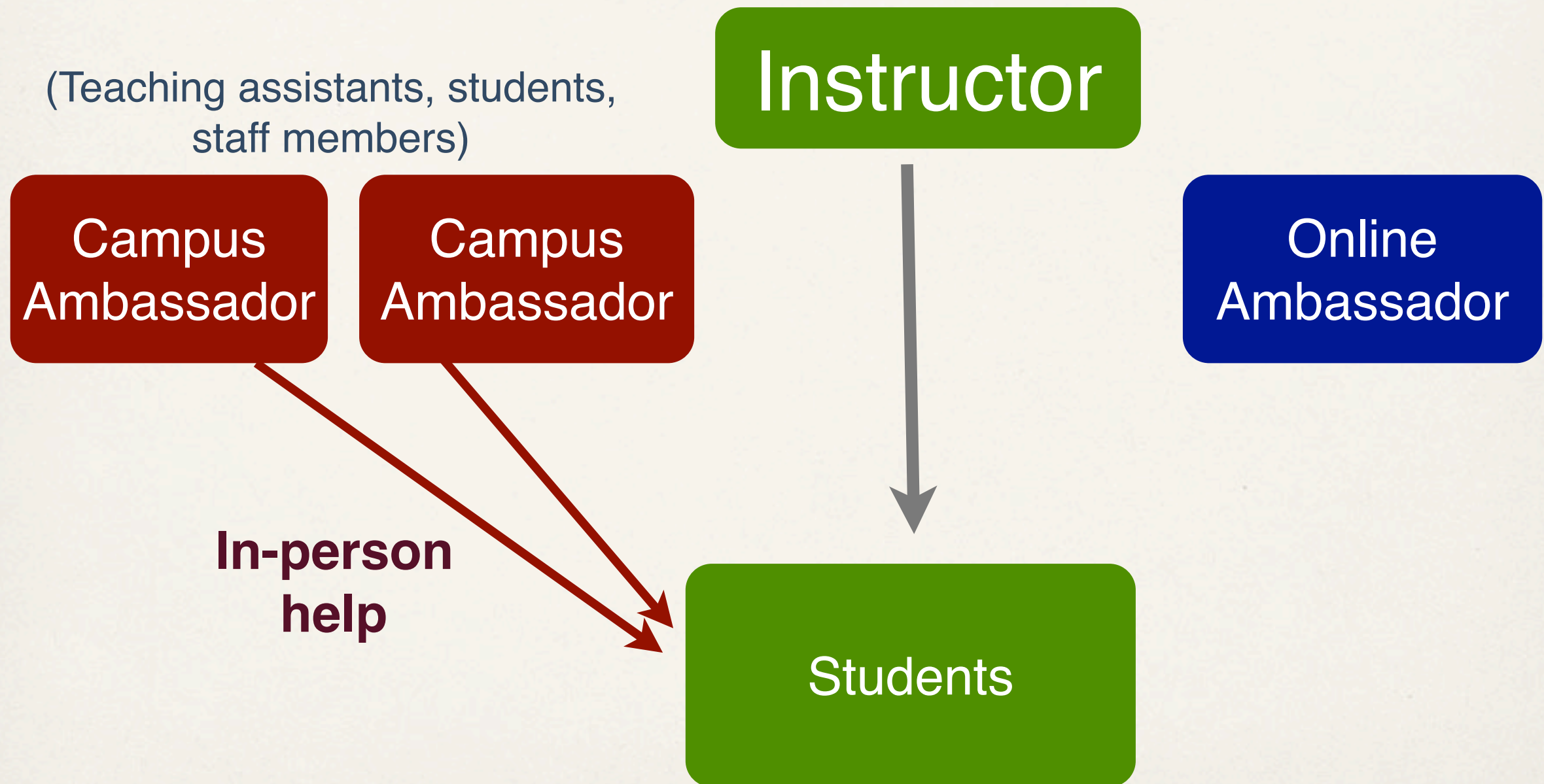
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# How it works

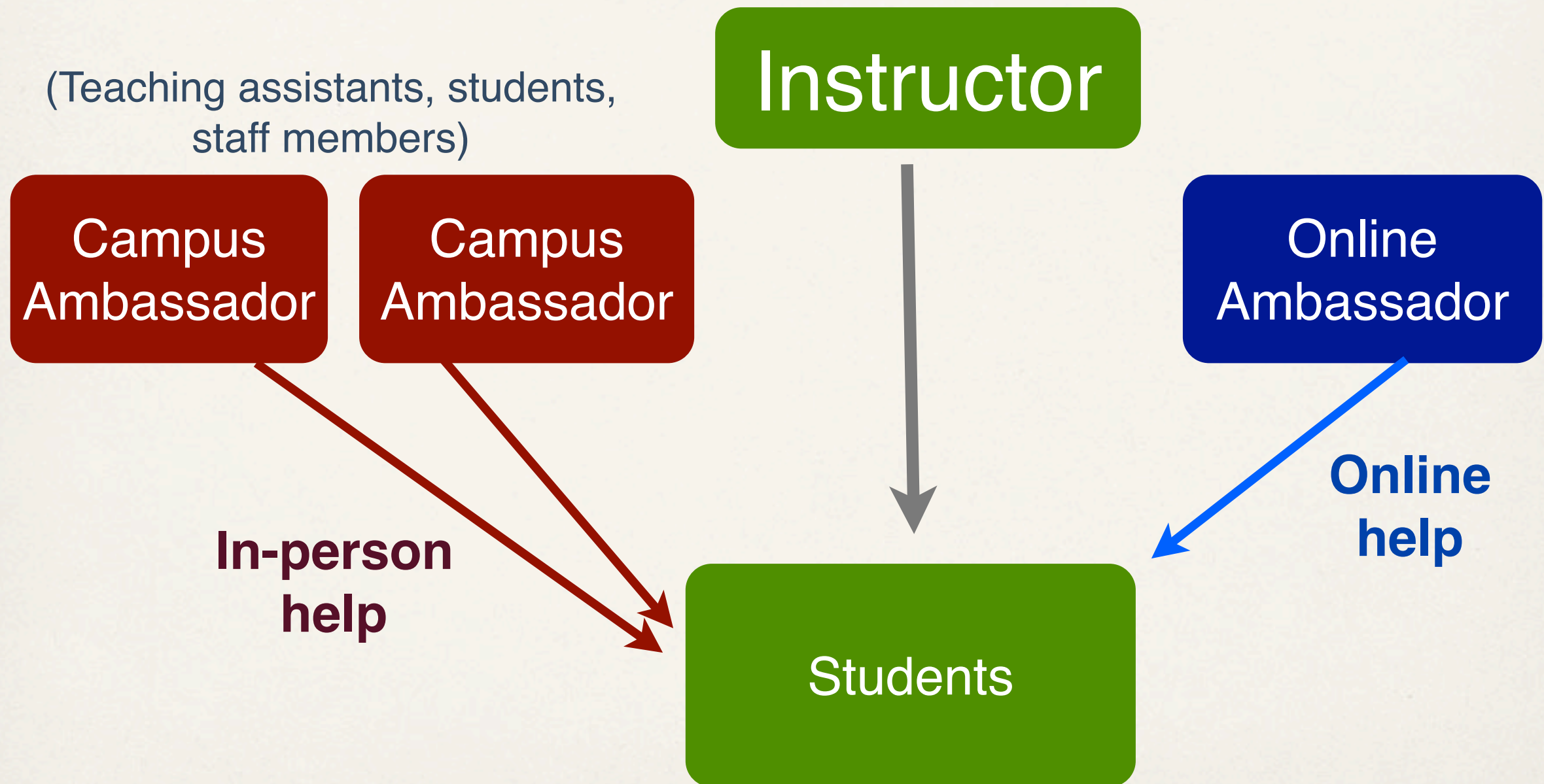
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# How it works

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Evaluating  
Wikipedia  
article quality

Imagine a world in  
which every single  
person on the  
planet is given  
free access to the  
sum of all human  
knowledge.

Jimmy Wales

Tänk dig en värld  
där varje människa  
på den här planeten  
får fri tillgång till  
männslighetens  
samlade kunskap.

Jimmy Wales, Wikipedia

برنامج  
ويكيبيديا  
التعليمي

Wikipedia  
Education  
Program

Case Studies:  
How professors  
are teaching  
with Wikipedia







NYU George Washington  
Berkeley Syracuse  
Boston University  
Harvard  
University of Michigan Indiana  
Georgetown  
Virginia Tech



32 Universities

47 Courses

800 Students



8.8 million characters

5,800+ printed pages

50,000 readers



- ❖ Austria
- ❖ Brazil
- ❖ Canada
- ❖ Czech Republic
- ❖ Egypt
- ❖ France
- ❖ Germany
- ❖ Greece
- ❖ India
- ❖ Israel
- ❖ Macedonia
- ❖ Mexico
- ❖ Russia
- ❖ Sweden
- ❖ United Kingdom
- ❖ United States



Example of student work:

**“Vocabulary Development”**  
(English Wikipedia)

before

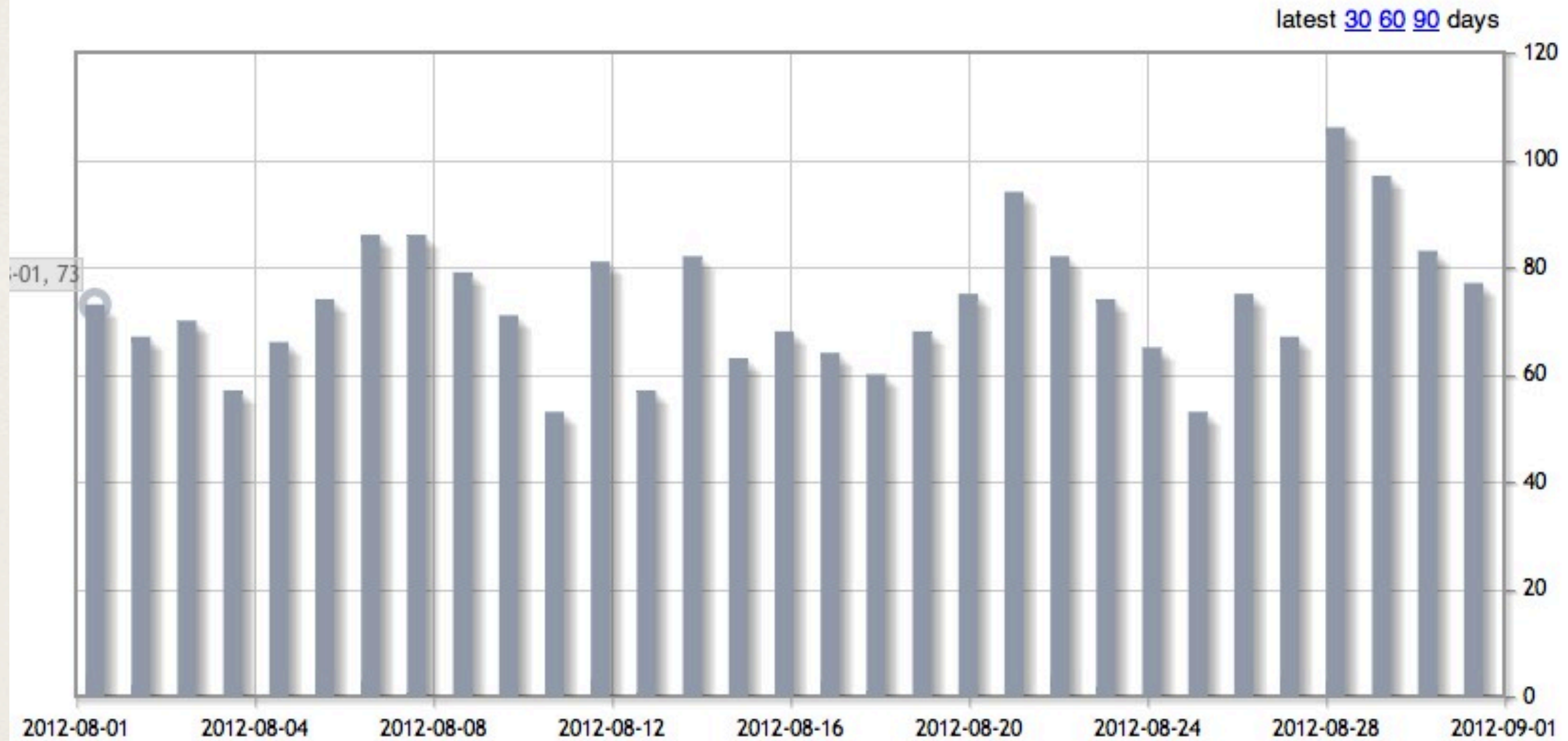
after







[vocabulary development](#) has been viewed 2273 times in 201208.



viewed **2,273** times in August 2012



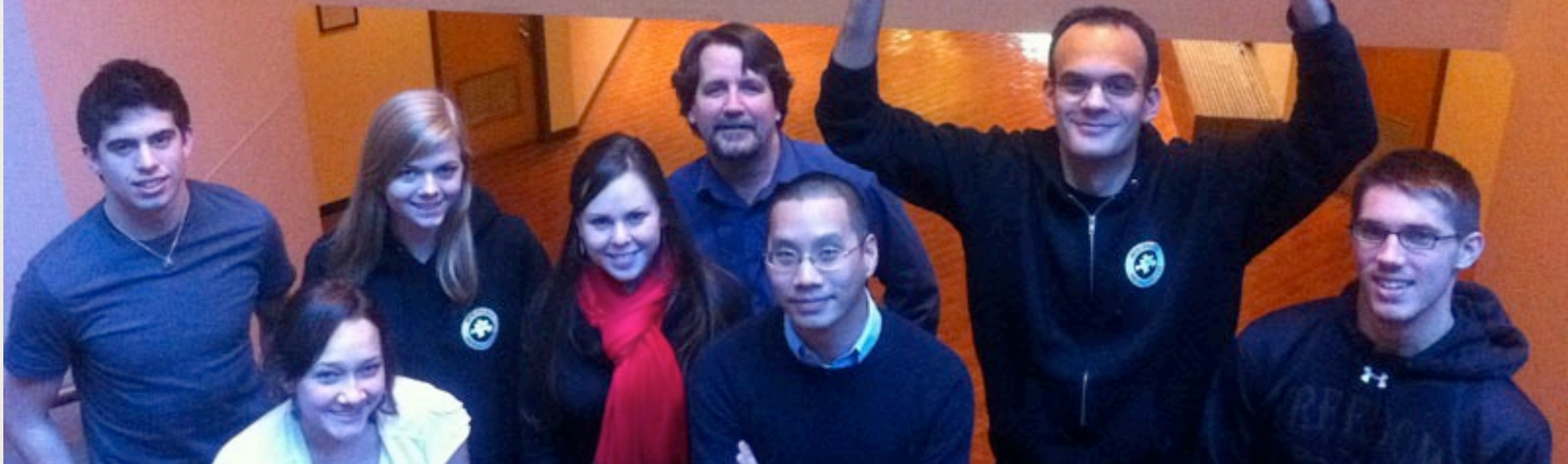
How instructors are assigning students to edit Wikipedia



THE AGE OF NATIONS IS PAST.  
IT REMAINS FOR US NOW,  
IF WE DO NOT WISH TO PERISH,  
TO SET ASIDE THE ANCIENT PREJUDICES  
AND BUILD

WIKIPEDIA

RICHARDIN, S.J.



## 3. Benefits & challenges

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videos!



benefits & challenges?



Approx. **80%** of students  
found the Wikipedia project to  
be a good, beneficial experience.

(U.S.A., Brazil, Egypt)



Approx. **72%** of students  
prefer a Wikipedia assignment  
to a traditional assignment.

(U.S.A.)



"Students use Wikipedia. It is very critical that we, meaning academia, get on board with this, because it is going to happen if we like it or not. We need to work with them to learn to use Wikipedia correctly and contribute to it to make it better."



<http://outreach.wikimedia.org>  
> “Education”  
> “Tips & Resources”