

Wikipedia Lab [DRAFT]

Wikipedia is a controversial source. Though it contains a complex system of reference and review, wikipedia is still a secondary source, as the wiki format does not ensure expert authors and peer review like a journal. Your task is to discuss some of the ethical implications of using wikipedia as a source and the wikipedia project in general.

Answer the following questions in about a paragraph each:

1. Are there any ethical problems that arise due to wikipedia's widespread use? For example, could wikipedia be in violation of the SE Code if someone edited an article to contain incorrect information and another person, referencing the article, died because of it? Be sure to provide specific examples of SE Code sections that apply.
2. Should wikipedia be usable as a primary source in college papers that aren't written to be published? What about papers that may be published in the future? Perhaps consider the possibility for the referenced page to change before the paper is even turned in.
3. Do you think wikipedia should seek professional editors for some or all of the articles that are willing to put their name and reputation on them? Should wikipedia allow anyone to edit any article like they did in the past, or should they increase the restrictions on who can edit articles even more in the future?