Wikipedia Project

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My office is in the Van Houten Library, ground floor

http://researchguides.njit.edu/wikipedia/
updated Spring 2012
Welcome

You are about to embark on an assignment that many students have found both fun and a great learning experience.

Davida Scharf and Heather Dalal, NJIT librarians, have been working with ENG352 students on Wikipedia assignments for several years.

They are enthusiastic and helpful. Do take advantage of her knowledge and experience with Wikipedia, and the information sources you’ll need to do well.

This Powerpoint will help you get started.
Overview

- What is Wikipedia; How does it work?
- What makes a good article?
- How will your work be judged?
- How to choose a topic
- How to find reliable sources to document your work
What is Wikipedia

1. Watch the video
2. Read the Wikipedia Welcome page
3. Read about Wikipedia’s philosophy
1. Watch the video

Wikipedia: Beneath the Surface
http://www.merlot.org/merlot/viewMaterial.htm?id=372672

This 6 minute animation introduces viewers to what goes on behind-the-scenes of Wikipedia so they can make the best use of the information they find. It focuses on questions such as "what is a wiki?" "How does information get into Wikipedia in the first place?" and "Who creates it?"
2. Read the Wikipedia Welcome page


Explore linked pages on how to navigate, register and edit. Also, familiarize yourself with Wikipedia policies and guidelines under “Our rules.”
3. Wikipedia Philosophy: Read about each of the *five pillars*


- **Wikipedia is an encyclopedia**
- **Wikipedia has a neutral point of view**, 
- **Wikipedia is free content** that anyone may edit.
- **Wikipedia has a code of conduct:**
- **Wikipedia does not have firm rules**


Including: Wikipedia in brief

What makes a good article?

Read carefully about “the perfect article”


Consider the rhetorical situation
Wikipedia: The perfect article

A perfect Wikipedia article...

- fills a gap; search for existing or related articles on the topic first.
- has a good title so it can be linked to and found easily and follows existing naming conventions.
- starts with a clear description of the subject; the lead introduces and explains the subject and its significance clearly and accurately, with excessive detail.
- is not a dictionary article as it is not about a word and how it is used; it is about an idea, which it explores thoroughly.
- is understandable; it is clearly expressed for both experts and non-experts in appropriate language.
- is nearly self-contained; it includes essential information and terminology, and is comprehensible by itself, without requiring significant reading of other articles.
- branches out; it contains wikilinks and sources to other articles and external information that add meaning to the subject.
- and branches in; editors have found and edited other significant wiki pages which make mention of the topic and link them to the article.
- acknowledges and explores all aspects of the subject; i.e., it covers every encyclopedia.
- is completely neutral and unbiased; it has a neutral point of view, presenting competing views on controversies logically and fairly, and pointing out all sides without favoring particular viewpoints. The most factual and accepted views are emphasized, and minority views are given a lower priority; sufficient information and references are provided so that readers can learn more about particular views.
- is of an appropriate length; it is long enough to provide sufficient information, depth, and analysis on its subject, without including unnecessary detail or information that would be more suitable in "sub-articles", related articles.
- reflects expert knowledge; it is grounded in fact and on sound scholarly and logical principles.
- is precise and explicit; it is free of vague generalities and half-truths that may arise from an imperfect grasp of the subject.
- is well-documented; all facts are cited from reputable sources, preferably sources that are accessible and up-to-date.
- is clear; it is written to avoid ambiguity and misunderstanding, using logical structure, and plain, clear prose; it is free of redundant language.
- is engaging; the language is descriptive and has an interesting, encyclopedic tone.
- follows standard writing conventions of modern language, including correct grammar, consistent verb tense, punctuation and spelling.
Why and when to cite sources

Wikipedia is written by contributors with a wide range of knowledge and skills. Readers need to be able to check the contributors' sources. Adding citations (references):

- Ensures that the content of articles can be checked by any reader or editor;
- Shows that your edit is not original research, reducing editorial disputes;
- Avoids claims of plagiarism and copying;
- Helps users find additional information on the topic;
- Ensures that material about living persons complies with biography policy;
- Improves the credibility of Wikipedia;

When adding material that is challenged or likely to be challenged

Main article: Wikipedia:Verifiability

Wikipedia:Verifiability says: "All quotations and any material challenged or likely to be challenged should be attributed to a reliable, published source using an inline citation."

The need for citations is especially important when writing about opinions held on a particular issue. Avoid weasel words where possible, such as, "Some people say ..." Instead, make your writing verifiable: find a specific person or group who holds that opinion and give a citation to a reputable publication in which they express that opinion. Remember that Wikipedia is not a place for expressing your own opinions or for original research. Opinions, data and statistics, and statements based on someone's scientific work should be cited and attributed to their authors in the text.

When quoting someone

Main article: Wikipedia:Verifiability
“Good” sources

http://library.njit.edu/researchhelpdesk/howto/evaluate.php

- Authority
- Accuracy
- Audience
- Objectivity
- Currency
- Coverage
- Quality of links/sources
Wikipedia:Linking

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia
(Redirected from Wikipedia:Manual of Style (links))

This guideline is a part of the English Wikipedia's Manual of Style. Use common sense in applying it; it will have occasional exceptions. Please ensure that any edits to this page reflect consensus.

For technical information about link formatting, see Help:Link.

"Wikilinks" redirects here. For the IRC script, see WP:Scripts/Wikilinks.

Linking through hyperlinks is an important feature of Wikipedia. Internal links bind the project together into an interconnected whole; interwiki links link the project to sister projects such as Wikipedia in other languages, Wikisource and Wiktionary, and external links help to embed Wikipedia into the external World Wide Web.

Links provide instant pathways to locations within and outside the project that are likely to increase our readers' understanding of the topic at hand. When writing or editing an article, it is important to consider not only what to put in the article itself, but what links should be included to help the reader find related information, as well as which other pages should carry links to the article. Care should be taken to avoid underlinking and overlinking, as described below.

This page contains guidelines as to when links should and should not be used, and how to format them. Detailed information about the syntax used to create links can be found at Help:Link. The rules on linking applicable to disambiguation pages are set out in the disambiguation style guide.

Contents

1 Principles
   1.1 General points on linking style
   1.2 Overlinking and underlinking
      1.2.1 What generally should be linked
      1.2.2 What generally should not be linked
   1.3 An example article
   1.4 Repeated links

1 Link specificity

Style

Manual

- Abbreviations
- Anime & manga
- Biographies
- Capital letters
- Chemistry
- Command-line examples
- Dates and numbers
- Disambiguation pages
- Icons
- Infoboxes
- Legal
- Lists of works
- Mathematics
- Medicine
- Music
- Pronunciation
The threshold for inclusion in Wikipedia is **Verifiability**!

What counts is whether readers can verify that material added to Wikipedia has already been published by a reliable source (see below), not whether editors think it is true.

This policy requires that a reliable source in the form of an inline citation be supplied for any material that is **challenged or likely to be challenged, and for all quotations**, or the material may be removed.

This is strictly applied to all material in the mainspace articles, lists, and sections of articles without exception, and in particular to **information about living persons**: unsourced contentious material about living persons should be removed immediately.

Categorization is a feature of Wikipedia's software, enabling pages to be placed in categories which can then be used by readers to find sets of articles on related topics. Categories can be defined as subcategories of other categories, and classes of categories can be formed. These allowing easy navigation between connected subject areas. This helps readers find articles on particular topics even if they don't know which articles exist or what they are called.

The tree-like structure navigated is imagined to root at the top, and branch downward into subcategories which inherit the expanding set of articles and set of categories of all their ancestors, the most immediate of which is called the parent category. The terms subcategory and parent category refer to the navigational or structural aspects of the category system, while the term category can refer to either its navigational aspect or its substantial aspect—the actual content of interest that structure supports.

Adding content or structure—deciding the members of a category—is simply creating a set. When we understand the nature of a set we can add members, so when we learn the nature of each type of category, we can then place member pages correctly. Forming Wikipedia categories will well require an understanding of how the system best functions. Categorization is concerned with issues about other namespace content, and Subcategorization is concerned with issues about categories. The actual content of a category is in the Pages
How will your work be judged?

• Overall
• Research and documentation
Examples

• Global warming (featured article)
• Network security (start class)
• Shear wall (stub class)
Global warming is the increase in the average temperature of Earth's near-surface air and oceans since the mid-20th century and its projected continuation. Global surface temperature increased 0.74 ± 0.18 °C (1.33 ± 0.32 °F) between the start and the end of the 20th century.[2][A] The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) concludes that most of the observed temperature increase since the middle of the 20th century was very likely caused by increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases resulting from human activity such as fossil fuel burning and deforestation.[2] The IPCC also concludes that variations in natural phenomena such as solar radiation and volcanic eruptions had a small cooling effect after 1950.[3][4] These basic conclusions have been endorsed by more than 40 scientific societies and academies of science,[5] including all of the national academies of science of the major industrialized countries.[6]

Climate model projections summarized in the latest IPCC report indicate that the global surface temperature is likely to rise a further 1.1 to 6.4 °C (2.0 to 11.5 °F) during the 21st century.[2] The uncertainty in this estimate arises from the use of models with differing sensitivity to greenhouse gas concentrations and the use of differing estimates of future greenhouse gas emissions. Most studies focus on the period up to the year 2100. However, warming is expected to continue beyond 2100 even if emissions stop, because of the large heat capacity of the oceans and the long lifetime of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.[8][7]

An increase in global temperature will cause sea levels to rise and will change the amount and pattern of precipitation, probably including expansion of subtropical deserts.[8] Warming is expected to be strongest in the Arctic and would be associated with continuing retreat of glaciers, permafrost and sea ice. Other likely effects include changes in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, species extinctions, and changes in agricultural yields. Warming and related changes will vary from region to region around the globe, though the nature of these regional variations are uncertain.

Political and public debate continues regarding global warming, and what actions (if any) to take in response. The available options are mitigation to reduce further emissions; adaptation to reduce the damage caused by warming; and, more speculatively, geoengineering to reverse global warming. Most national governments have signed and ratified the Kyoto Protocol aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
Featured articles in Wikipedia

Featured articles are considered to be the best articles in Wikipedia, as determined by Wikipedia's editors. Before being listed here, articles are reviewed at featured article candidates for accuracy, neutrality, completeness, and style according to our featured article criteria.

At present, there are 2,784 featured articles, of a total of 3,196,430 articles on the English Wikipedia. Thus, about one in 1,140 articles is listed here. Articles that no longer meet the criteria can be proposed for improvement or removal at featured article review.

A small bronze star (⭐) on the top right corner of an article's page indicates for non-logged-in readers and most user settings that the article is featured. Additionally, if the current article is featured in another language version, a star will appear next to the language page link, in the list on the left of the page (see also featured articles in other languages).

Random featured article

Featured content:
- Featured articles ↩
- Featured lists
- Featured pictures
- Featured sounds
- Featured portals
- Featured topics

Featured article tools:
- Featured article criteria
- Featured article candidates
- Featured article review
- Today's featured article
  - This month's queue
  - Main page requests
- Featured article log
- Featured article statistics
- Former featured articles

Contents

Art, architecture and archaeology · Awards, decorations and vexillology · Biology · Business, economics and finance · Chemistry and mineralogy · Computing · Culture and society · Education · Engineering and technology · Food and drink · Geography and places · Geology, geophysics and meteorology · Health and medicine · History · Language and linguistics · Law · Literature and theatre · Mathematics · Media · Music · Philosophy and psychology · Physics and astronomy · Politics and government · Religion, mysticism and mythology · Royalty, nobility and heraldry · Sport and recreation · Transport · Video gaming · Warfare
This article has been placed on article probation. Editors making disruptive edits may be blocked temporarily from editing the encyclopedia, or subject to other administrative remedies, according to standards that may be higher than elsewhere on Wikipedia. Please see Wikipedia:General sanctions/Climate change probation for full information and to review the decision.

Administrators: when sanctioning an editor for disruption to an article under probation, please be sure to record the action in the appropriate log. The log is linked here, under "decision and log" on the sanction's row in the table.

This is the talk page for discussing improvements to the Global warming article.

- This is not a forum for general discussion of the article's subject.
- Put new text under old text. Click here to start a new topic.
- Please sign and date your posts by typing four tildes (~~~~). New to Wikipedia? Welcome! Ask questions, get answers.

Article policies
- Be polite
- Assume good faith
- Avoid personal attacks
- Be welcoming

Archives: Index, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58

FAQ page

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

This article is within the scope of multiple WikiProjects. Click [show] for further details.

This article has been mentioned by multiple media organizations:

Global warming is a featured article; it (or a previous version of it) has been identified as one of the best articles produced by the Wikipedia community. Even so, if you can update or improve it, please do so.

This article appeared on Wikipedia's Main Page as Today's featured article on June 21, 2006.
Finding a gap to fill

If you keep searching Wikipedia and are having trouble locating a topic that suits you--one that hasn’t been extensively done already, there are a few things you can do.

• **CLEANUP**--You can look for articles in Wikipedia that have been tagged as starter articles (stubs) or as needing improvement.

• **WORK BACKWARDS**: You can try to work backwards from a good source (Find a few books in our library on a topic and use them to obtain facts you can use to enhance existing articles.)
Ways to find a topic

**CLEANUP:** Look for articles needing cleanup
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Articles_needing_attention

Look through WikiProjects and Portals: These are collaboration areas and open group of editors dedicated to improving Wikipedia's coverage of a particular topic, or to organizing some internal Wikipedia process. (for example, see The Environmental Portal or the Engineering Project and look in the table of contents for open tasks)
Portal:Environment

The Environment Portal

The natural environment comprises all naturally-occurring surroundings and conditions in which living things grow and interact on Earth. These include complete landscape units that function as natural systems without major human intervention, as well as plants, animals, rocks, and natural phenomena occurring within their boundaries. They also include non-local or universal natural resources that lack clear-cut boundaries, such as air, water, and climate.

The concept of the natural environment can be distinguished by components:

- Complete ecological units that function as natural systems without massive human intervention, including all vegetation, animals, microorganisms, soil, rocks, atmosphere and natural phenomena that occur within their boundaries.
- Universal natural resources and physical phenomena that lack clear-cut boundaries, such as air, water, and climate, as well as energy, radiation, electric change, and magnetism, not originating from human activity.

As human population numbers increase and as humans continue to evolve, human activity modifies the natural environment at a rapidly increasing rate, producing what is referred to as the built environment. The potential of the natural environment to sustain these anthropogenic changes while continuing to function as an ecosystem is an issue of major worldwide concern. Key environmental areas of interest include climate change, water supply and waste water, air pollution, waste management and hazardous waste, and land use issues such as deforestation, desertification, and urban sprawl.

Show new selections

Selected article

100,000-year problem is a discrepancy between the climate response (as measured by proxies for the temperature and extent of glaciations) and the forcing from the amount of incoming solar radiation or insolation, which has little power on a 100,000-year (100 ka) timescale.

Due to variations in the Earth’s orbit, the amount of insolation varies with periods of around 21,000, 40,000, 100,000, and 400,000 years. Variations in the amount of solar heating drive changes in the climate of the Earth, and are recognized as a key factor in the timing of initiation and termination of ice ages. Spectral analysis shows that the most powerful climate response is at 100,000-year period, but the orbital forcing at this period is small.

More about the environment...

Richard Buckminster “Bucky” Fuller (July 12, 1895 – July 1, 1983) was an American visionary, designer, architect, poet, author, and inventor. Throughout his life, Fuller was concerned with the question “Does humanity have a chance to survive lastingly and successfully on planet Earth, and if so, how?” Considering himself an average individual without special monetary means or academic degree, he chose to devote his life to this question, trying to find out what an individual like him could do to improve humanity’s condition that large organizations, governments, or private enterprises inherently could not do.
# Computing Stubs

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<tr>
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<th>Description</th>
<th>Useful To</th>
<th>Editing</th>
<th>Examples</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>GA</strong></td>
<td>The article has attained good article status. More detailed criteria</td>
<td>Useful to nearly all readers, with no obvious problems; approaching (although not equalling) the quality of a professional encyclopedia.</td>
<td>Some editing by subject and style experts is helpful; comparison with an existing featured article on a similar topic may highlight areas where content is weak or missing.</td>
<td>Usain Bolt (as of November 2009)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>B</strong></td>
<td>The article is mostly complete and without major issues, but requires some further work to reach good article standards. More detailed criteria</td>
<td>Readers are not left wanting, although the content may not be complete enough to satisfy a serious student or researcher.</td>
<td>A few aspects of content and style need to be addressed, and expert knowledge is increasingly needed. The inclusion of supporting materials should also be considered if practical, and the article checked for general compliance with the Manual of Style and related style guidelines.</td>
<td>KV55 (as of November 2009)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>C</strong></td>
<td>The article is substantial, but is still missing important content or contains a lot of irrelevant material. The article should have some references to reliable sources, but may still have significant issues or require substantial cleanup. More detailed criteria</td>
<td>Useful to a casual reader, but would not provide a complete picture for even a moderately detailed study.</td>
<td>Considerable editing is needed to close gaps in content and address cleanup issues.</td>
<td>Architecture of Denmark (as of November 2009)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Start</strong></td>
<td>An article that is developing, but which is quite incomplete and, most notably, lacks adequate reliable sources. More detailed criteria</td>
<td>Provides some meaningful content, but the majority of readers will need more.</td>
<td>Provision of references to reliable sources should be prioritised; the article will also need substantial improvements in content and organisation.</td>
<td>Real analysis (as of November 2006)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Stub</strong></td>
<td>A very basic description of the topic. More detailed criteria</td>
<td>Provides very little meaningful content; may be little more than a dictionary definition.</td>
<td>Any editing or additional material can be helpful. The provision of meaningful content should be a priority.</td>
<td>Geodia gibberosa (as of July 2009)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Start class - needs more content and sources, --often needs re-organization, branches in and out, categories
Shear wall

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Main article: Earthquake engineering

In structural engineering, a shear wall is a wall composed of braced panels with hard, concrete surrounding it (also known as shear panels) to counter the effects of lateral load acting on a structure. Wind and earthquake loads are the most common loads braced wall lines are designed to counteract. Under several building codes, including the International Building Code (where it is called a braced wall line) and Uniform Building Code, all exterior wall lines in wood or steel frame construction must be braced. Depending on the size of the building some interior walls must be braced as well.

A common method of constructing a braced wall line in wood frames is to create braced panels in the wall line using structural plywood sheathing with specific nailing at the edges and supporting framing of the panel. A more traditional method is to use let-in diagonal bracing throughout the wall line, but this method isn’t viable for buildings with many openings for doors, windows, etc.

Such walls can be either "load bearing" or "non-load bearing". Shear walls are a type of structural system that provides lateral resistance to a building or structure. They resist "in-plane" loads that are applied along its height. The applied load is generally transferred to the wall by a diaphragm or collector or drag member. They are built in wood, concrete, and CMU (masonry).

Plywood is the traditional material used in the construction of Shear Walls, but with advances in technology and modern building methods, there are stronger, more effective ways to accomplish this feat. The creation of pre-fabricated shear panels (i.e. Hardipanel, Simpson Strong Wall...etc.) have made it possible to inject strong shear assemblies into small walls that fall at either side of an opening in a shear wall. As well as the use of a sheet steel, and steel-backed shear panel (i.e. Sure-Board) in the place of structural use plywood in shear walls, has proved to be far stronger in seismic resistance when used in shear wall assemblies.

Nonplanar Shearwalls: Due to functional requirements, the designer may choose non planar sections like C,L as opposed to the planar sections like rectangular/bar bell sections. Nonplanar sections require 3D analysis and are a research area.


See also

- Hold down

Typical manufacturers

Manufacturers of shear walls include Commine Manufacturing, Chainring Construction Products, Simpson Strong-Tie, Weyerhaeuser, Simplified Structural Systems and WallBilt International.
FINDING SOURCES

Use the Open Web and the Invisible Web

(the library portal--library.njit.edu)
### Design of reinforced masonry structures / 

**Title:** Design of reinforced masonry structures / Narendra Taly.

**Author:** Taly, Narendra.

### Holdings information:

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<th>ArchLib stacks (aisles 2 through 9)</th>
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</table>


**ISBN:** 0070633665

**Format:** Book

**Contents:**
1. Introduction
2. Masonry units and their applications
3. Materials of masonry construction
4. Flexural analysis and design
5. Columns
6. Walls under axial and transverse loads
7. Shear walls
8. Retaining and subterranean walls
9. Construction aspects
10. Design of masonry buildings

**Subjects:**
- Reinforced concrete construction
- Building, Brick

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**Books on construction from the NJIT Library**

  - MacGregor, James G. (James Grierson), 1934-.
  - 2005
  - TA683.2.M34 2005
  - Available, Stacks (lower level)

- **Simplified design of concrete structures** / James Ambrose and Patrick Tripony.
  - Ambrose, James E.
  - 2007
  - TA683.2.A524 2007
  - Available, Stacks (lower level)
How Davida found a gap to fill

WORKING BACKWARDS:

• I picked up a *New Book* from the library shelf – in the lobby of Van Houten.

• *The Algal Bowl: Overfertilization fo the World’s Freshwaters and Estuaries* by David Schindler and John Vallentyne

• I searched Wikipedia for algal bowl.

• I found the topic, and a ‘see also’ to eutrophication.

• I looked through the book for topics not covered in Wikipedia, i.e. a particular lake (Lac La Biche).
No mention of the algal bloom!
Can you corroborate info from the book?
Search for Lac La Biche’s algal problem elsewhere.

Add category: Environment
Google Scholar

“lac la biche” +”algal bloom”
Use library databases to find articles from periodicals.
Green File
Covers periodicals that address environmental topics
What’s the difference between *External Links* and *References*?

**External links** are just links to additional sources of relevant information.

**References** are like footnotes in Wikipedia. They are complete and correct citations to the sources from which you verified specific facts you included in your article. Even if you KNOW something yourself, you must still find an additional published, reliable source where the information is corroborated.

**YOUR ARTICLE MUST INCLUDE REFERENCES of good quality.** External links are excellent, but optional and depend on the subject
This article is in need of attention from an expert on the subject. WikiProject Technology or the Technology Portal may be able to help recruit one. (August 2021)

Biodegradable plastics are plastics that will decompose in natural aerobic (composting) and anaerobic (landfill) environments. Biodegradation of plastics can be achieved by enabling microorganisms in the environment to metabolize the molecular structure of plastic films to produce an inert humus-like material that is less harmful to the environment. They may be composed of either bioplastics, which are plastics whose components are derived from renewable raw materials, or petroleum-based plastics which utilize an additive. The use of bio-active compounds compounded with swelling agents ensures that, when combined with heat and moisture, they expand the plastic's molecular structure and allow the bio-active compounds to metabolize and neutralize the plastic.1

Biodegradable plastics typically are produced in two forms: injection molded (solid, 3D shapes), typically in the form of disposable food service items and films, typically sold as collection bags for leaves and grass trimmings, and agricultural stretch.2

Contents
1 Scientific definitions of biodegradable plastic
2 Environmental benefits of biodegradable plastics depend upon proper disposal
3 Mechanisms
4 Advantages and disadvantages
5 Environmental concerns; benefits
6 Confusion over proper definition of terms
7 Energy Costs For Production
8 See also
9 References

Scientific definitions of biodegradable plastic

In the United States, ASTM International is the authoritative body for defining biodegradable standards. The specific subcommittee responsibility for overseeing these standards falls on the Committee D20.96 on Environmentally Degradable Plastics and Biobased Products. The current ASTM standards are defined as standard specifications and standard test methods. Standard specifications create a pass or fail scenario whereas standard test methods identify the specific testing parameters for facilitating specific biodegradable tests on plastics.3


Currently the most accurate standard test method for anaerobic environments is the ASTM D6511 - 02 Standard Test Method for Determining Anaerobic Biodegradation of Plastic Materials.4

References

Incomplete: missing author, title, date, publisher, etc.

Correct

Incomplete

Correct
Biodegradable plastics are plastics that will decompose in natural aerobic (composting) and anaerobic (landfill) environments. Biodegradation of plastics can be achieved by enabling microorganisms in the environment to metabolize the molecular structure of to produce an inert humus-like material that is less harmful to the environment. They may be composed of either bioplastics, which are plastics whose components are derived from renewable raw materials, or petroleum-based plastics which utilize an additive. The use of bioactive compounds compounded with swelling agents ensures that, when combined with heat and moisture, they expand the plastic's molecular structure and allow the bio-active compounds to metabolize and neutralize the plastic.\[1\]
Cite your sources correctly

For this assignment, you will use APA Style --though not every Wikipedia editor does so!

• Read ‘Citing sources in Wikipedia: Guidelines’

• See the links from the Library website on how to cite sources:
http://library.njit.edu/researchguides.njit.edu/citations
Cite your sources correctly

For a brief overview tutorial on Citing Sources see:

http://researchguides.njit.edu/citations

Evaluate your sources!

Remember to use reliable, relevant sources. Evaluate them carefully before citing.

http://researchguides.njit.edu/evaluate
Ways to Improve Wikipedia

• Add and improve the quality of sources
• Add verifiable content
• Reorganize or edit
• Don’t take the article scope as a given
• Rename, redirect, disambiguate
• Branch in and out
• Categorize
• Make the article look visually appealing
Get started as an editor

- Sign up as an editor & get familiar with how editing works—try the sandbox
- Browse some content of interest to you
- Check the discussion and history tabs
- Try to find a topic you can add or improve
- Start your research: Make sure you can find multiple trustworthy sources to document the information you will include in your article
- Make sure the topic and sources meet the assignment criteria
Sign up as an editor & get familiar with how editing works—try the sandbox

Why Register?

If you don’t register, your work is attributed to your IP address—so it is not constant. If you don’t register your content may be blocked; Editors who don’t register are more easily associated with vandalism, so your work may be blocked or removed. Your work is more easily traced by IP address than by your username.

Mostly registering makes it easier to edit. You can
- Watch pages
- Easily add an external link
- Upload images
- Create a new page
- Customize your interface
- Use email
- Mark edits as minor
- Edit an article that is semi-protected against vandalism
- Move or rename an article

SO, REGISTER! You don’t have to use your real name, but you can. Some students use their NJIT email ID.
Set up your user page

Click the red link at the top with your user name
Teach yourself the basics


**Find our Course Page**

BE SURE TO LOOK AT THE RESOURCES TAB FOR TUTORIALS ABOUT EDITING

Follow a model (examine the code on a page with a similar feature)

If the instructions aren’t clear, consider editing them!
More sources of info


More sources of info

**Why Wiki?** A video produced by the University of Wisconsin/Milwaukee Library.

http://www.uwm.edu/Libraries/courses/wiki/
A number of studies have assessed the reliability of entries in Wikipedia at specific times. One important difference between Wikipedia and traditional media, however, is the dynamic nature of its entries. An entry assessed today might be substantially extended or reworked tomorrow. This study paper assesses the frequency with which small, inaccurate changes are quickly corrected.
Amusing videos about Wikipedia

• “Wikipedia Tutorial: a guide for students”
  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XPC-bNX9O_E

• “The Word – Wikiality” by Stephen Colbert
We’re here to help