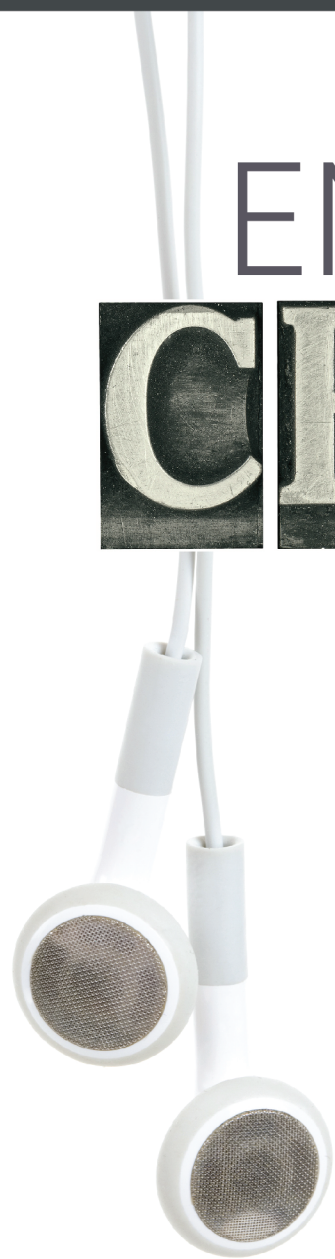


# ALTERNATIVES to Traditional Research Writing Assignments

## EMBRACING CHANGE

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### *Writing for Wikipedia: Applying Disciplinary Knowledge to the Biggest Encyclopedia*

Let's admit it. We use Wikipedia. Still, students often enter college believing that Wikipedia is prohibited, and most instructors discourage its use. Some instructors use Wikipedia more critically, asking students how a Wikipedia article could be improved. Wikipedia can be an ideal laboratory for developing writers and researchers. This chapter presents an overview of how a Wikipedia editing assignment may take the place of a traditional research paper. We share our experiences with research assignments that adopted Wikipedia as a platform. Student "Wikipedians" researched and freely published accurate information on various topics, learning real-world research skills and improving Wikipedia.