# About Methodocracy.org

Methodocracy.org is a website that applies the scientific method and other methods to arguably every subject.

### How does it work?

Entries exist in a hierarchy, where each submission attempts to disprove or support its parent. Different types of entries will hold higher merit than others. For example, a controlled experiment will be more meritable than observational study. A comment, which can contain opinions, is the least meritable.

### What is the purpose of this site?

Methodocracy.org is simply a process, it can be used for a multitude of goals. Here are several purposes that have been enumerated:

## Possible Purposes

* **Evidence-based governance.** Methodocracy.org could be used to determine the best ways to govern society. The process attempts to delegitimize opinions and instead value evidence. Through this process, the website can improve society relative to its current state. This purpose was actually the driving force behind Methodocracy.org’s inception, but the project’s goals have since been expanded.
* **Centralization of academic processes.** Methodocracy.org attempts to provide an alternative medium for the advancement of academic fields. The website’s goal is to increase its quality and efficiency to a level that makes this alternative more attractive than the status quo. With the notion that everything can fall under an academic field, Methodocracy.org attempts to be the central location for the advancement of knowledge.
* **Centralization of knowledge.** Although whether or not Methodocracy.org can house all knowledge is debatable, the website attempts to store every piece of information so that it can be improved upon. Wikipedia<legal symbol and/or link> already accomplishes this task pretty well, but Methodocracy.org needs to store its own version of information so that it can be manipulated within the site.
* ***“Which recipe of apple pie is the best?”*** One answer could be correct for one individual, and another answer could be correct for a different individual. Methodocracy.org can be used to categorize all of the conclusions into a master conclusion that incorporates conditional logic. The website is not restricted to subjects deemed as important, but rather everything, including the lighthearted subjects.

### Who can use this project, and how?

Anybody can use Methodocracy.org, but there are systems in place that ensure only the most meritable arguments hold the most weight. There will be a credential system put into place that requires users to have credentials in order to perform certain actions. These credentials would be earned through a built-in education and testing system.

### What are the dangers?

**Under no circumstances should Methodocracy.org and its content, in whole or in part, hold power over any individual** <link>legal</link>**.** Methodocracy.org is only a suggestive force to be executed by separate social entities or separate individuals. There should always be logical and ethical barriers between the content of Methodocracy.org and the behavior of society. It must be recognized that this website carries some Orwellian dangers, and proper precautions should be taken. However, it is probable that these precautions will be taken, and that society will benefit.

**Under no circumstances should Methodocracy.org and its content, in whole or in part, dictate the behavior of any individual** <link>legal</link>**.** Unethical arguments may hold higher merit than they should at certain points in time. This is because it takes time for other users to recognize the entry as unethical, then provide evidence supporting its unethicality. Because of this, it must be realized that Methodocracy.org does not always hold the best answer.

### Is this the best way to do things?

Questions such as this are within the scope of the site’s collaborative problem solving environment. All of the systems in Methodocracy.org are put under its own method. The applied practices of the site will always be scrutinized by users, who can provide input and potentially better practices, all through the site’s methods. Methodocracy.org is not the product of a simple idea from one or a few people, but rather a continually evolving system.

### Who can work on this project?

Most of Methodocracy.org’s code and data is open sourced. Visit our <link>GitHub</link> project to view the project’s files. If you would like to edit any part of the code, simply fork the project. You can use this edited version of the website for your own purposes (<link>restrictions apply</link>), or you can request that your edits be pulled and merged into the main development branch. Some code and data is hidden for security purposes, or possibly if overwhelming evidence shows that hiding some code/data has a positive psychological effect.