Wikipedia:Five pillars

The fundamental principles of Wikipedia may be summarized in five "pillars":

Wikipedia is an encyclopedia

Wikipedia combines many features of general and specialized encyclopedias, almanacs, and gazetteers. **Wikipedia is not** a soapbox, an advertising platform, a social network, a vanity press, an experiment in anarchy or democracy, an indiscriminate collection of information, nor a web directory. It is not a dictionary, a newspaper, nor a collection of source documents, although some of its fellow Wikimedia projects are.

Wikipedia is written from a neutral point of view

We strive for articles with an impartial tone that document and explain major points of view, giving due weight for their prominence. We avoid advocacy, and we characterize information and issues rather than debate them. In some areas there may be just one well-recognized point of view; in others we describe multiple points of view, presenting each accurately and in context rather than as "the truth" or "the best view". All articles must strive for verifiable accuracy with citations based on reliable sources, especially when the topic is controversial or is about a living person. Editors' personal experiences, interpretations, or opinions do not belong on Wikipedia.

Wikipedia is free content that anyone can use, edit, and distribute

All editors freely license their work to the public, and no editor owns an article – any contributions can and may be mercilessly edited and redistributed. Respect copyright laws and never plagiarize from any sources. Borrowing non-free media is sometimes allowed as fair use, but editors should strive to find free alternatives first.

Wikipedia's editors should treat each other with respect and civility

Respect your fellow Wikipedians, even when you disagree. Apply Wikipedia etiquette, and do not engage in personal attacks or edit wars. Seek consensus, and never disrupt Wikipedia to illustrate a point. Act in good faith, and assume good faith on the part of others. Be open and welcoming to newcomers. Should conflicts arise, discuss them calmly on the appropriate talk pages, follow dispute resolution procedures, and consider that there are 6,929,704 other articles on the English Wikipedia to improve and discuss.

Wikipedia has no firm rules

Wikipedia has policies and guidelines, but they are not carved in stone; their content and interpretation can evolve over time. The principles and spirit matter more than literal wording, and sometimes improving Wikipedia requires making exceptions. Be bold, but not reckless, in updating articles. And do not agonize over making mistakes: they can be corrected easily because (almost) every past version of each article is saved.

Wikipedia principles				
Five pillars	**Jimbo's statement**	**Simplified ruleset**	**Wikimedia principles**	**Principles**
Statement of our principles	Historic principles	Synopsis of our conventions	Common to all projects (in Meta-Wiki)	Other essays on Wikipedia's principles

Wikipedia key policies and guidelines (?)		
Five pillars (**Ignore all rules**)		
Content (?)	**P**	Verifiability · No original research · Neutral point of view · What Wikipedia is not · Biographies of living persons · Copyright (Copyright violations) · Image use · Article titles
	G	Notability · Autobiography · Citing sources · Reliable sources (Medicine) · Do not include copies of lengthy primary sources · Plagiarism · Don't create hoaxes · Fringe theories · Patent nonsense · External links
Conduct (?)	**P**	Civility · Consensus · Harassment · Vandalism · Ignore all rules · No personal attacks · Ownership of content · Edit warring · Dispute resolution · Sockpuppetry · No legal threats · Child protection · Paid-contribution disclosure
	G	Assume good faith · Conflict of interest · Disruptive editing · Do not disrupt Wikipedia to illustrate a point · Etiquette · Gaming the system · Please do not bite the newcomers · Courtesy vanishing · Responding to threats of harm · Talk page guidelines (Signatures)
Deletion (?)	**P**	Deletion policy · Proposed deletion (Biographies) · Criteria for speedy deletion · Attack page · Oversight · Revision deletion
Enforcement (?)	**P**	Administrators · Banning · Blocking · Page protection
Editing (?)	**P**	Editing policy
	G	Article size (Summary style) · Be bold · Disambiguation · Hatnotes · Broad-concept article · Understandability
		Style: Manual of Style (Contents) · Accessibility · Dates and numbers · Images · Layout · Lead section · Linking · Lists
		Classification: Categories, lists, and navigation templates · Categorization · Template namespace
Project content (?)	**G**	Project namespace (WikiProjects) · User pages (User boxes) · Shortcuts · Subpages
WMF (?)	**P**	Universal Code of Conduct · Terms of Use · List of policies · Friendly space policy · Licensing and copyright · Privacy policy
List of all policies and guidelines (**P**: **List of policies** · **G**: **List of guidelines**) · **Summaries of values and principles**		

Wikipedia community	
For a listing of current collaborations, tasks, and news, see the **Community portal**. *For a listing of ongoing discussions and current requests, see the* **Dashboard**.	
General community topics	Administration · News (*The Signpost* · Goings-on · In the media) · Meetups · Mailing lists · Wikipedians · Statistics · The Wikipedia Library · Centralized discussion · Village pump (Idea lab · Policy · Proposals · Technical · Miscellaneous · WMF) · Holidays · Bots
Contents and grading	Requested articles · Most-wanted articles · Images needing articles · Articles needing images · Articles for creation (WP:AFC/R · WP:AFC/C · Creation · Help) · Vital articles · Articles for improvement · Peer review · Good article nominations · Featured article candidates (Lists · Pictures · Topics) · Article translation (Pages) · Main Page (Errors)
WikiProjects and collaborations	Directory · Culture and the arts · Geographical · History and society · Science, technology and engineering · Wikipedia assistance and tasks · Patrols (Recent changes) · Counter-Vandalism Unit · Accessibility · Organizations category
Awards and feedback	Reward board · Contests · A nice cup of tea and a sit down · Charitableness · WikiLove (Compliment before criticism · Kindness Campaign) · Thanks!
Maintenance tasks	Task Center (Open tasks) · Backlog (Category · Admin category) · Edit requests (Category) · Database reports · Category tracker · Dusty articles · Special pages (New pages · Recent changes) · Controversial issues
Administrators and noticeboards	Administrators' noticeboard (Incidents · Edit warring · Vandalism) · Admin dashboard · Admin requests (Closure · Page protection · User permissions · Sockpuppets · Open proxies) ·

	Revision deletion · Oversight (Request) · Usernames (Changing · Title blacklist) · OTRS · Bureaucrats' (Requests for adminship and bureaucratship) · Arbitration Committee (Requests · Enforcement)
Content dispute resolution	Requests for comment · Third opinion · Dispute resolution noticeboard (Biographies of living persons · Conflict of interest · External links · Fringe theories · Neutral point of view · No original research · Reliable sources)
Other noticeboards and assistance	Regional notice boards · Requests for help (Category) · Asking questions (Teahouse · Help desk · Reference desk · Adopt-a-user) · Copyright assistance (Copyright investigations · Text problems · Media questions) · Resource requests · Mergers (History mergers) · Moves (Page importation) · Spam (Blacklist · Whitelist) · Bots · Education · General sanctions · Editor sanctions · Long-term abuse
Deletion discussions	Guide (Admin) · Today · Articles · Templates · Files · Categories · Redirects · Miscellany · Speedy · Proposed (BLP) · Review (Undeletion) · Arguments to avoid · Arguments to make · Article Rescue
Elections and voting	Requests for comment (meta) · Wikimedia Foundation elections · WP Democracy (Milestones)
Directories, indexes, and summaries	Departments · Edit summary legend · Editor's index · Essays · FAQs · Glossary (Abbreviations) · Help · Manual of Style (Simplified) · Rules (Five pillars · Policies · Guidelines) · Shortcuts · Templates (Citation templates) · Tips (Today) · Tools · Wiki markup
Media · Category · Templates	