

Professional Report on the Debate Over Very Short Articles Achieving Featured Article Status on Wikipedia

Introduction

The debate over whether very short articles can achieve Featured Article (FA) status on Wikipedia is a topic of significant discussion among contributors. This report synthesizes the key points of this debate, highlighting the differing opinions and the criteria for achieving FA status, as well as providing examples of very short articles that have been featured.

Differing Opinions Among Contributors

Wikipedia contributors are divided on the issue of short articles achieving FA status. Some contributors oppose the idea of short articles being considered at Featured Article Candidates (FAC) due to several concerns:

- **Potential Overflow of FACs**: There is a fear that allowing short articles to be featured could lead to an overwhelming number of FACs, making it difficult to manage and review them all effectively.
- **Lack of Reviewers**: The increase in FACs could strain the pool of available reviewers, potentially leading to a decline in the quality of reviews.
- **Loss of Quality on the Main Page**: There is a concern that featuring short articles might compromise the perceived quality of content displayed on Wikipedia's main page.

Conversely, other contributors argue that any article meeting Wikipedia's notability requirements should be eligible for FA status, regardless of its length. They emphasize that the quality of an article is determined by its thoroughness, accuracy, and relevance, rather than its length.

Criteria for Featured Article Status

The criteria for achieving FA status on Wikipedia focus on the quality of the article rather than its length. Key factors include:

- **Thoroughness**: The article should cover the topic comprehensively, providing all necessary information to understand the subject.
- **Accuracy**: Information presented in the article must be factually correct and well-researched.
- **Relevance**: The content should be pertinent to the topic and contribute to a clear understanding of the subject matter.

Examples of Very Short Featured Articles

Despite the debate, there are examples of very short articles that have achieved FA status, demonstrating that length is not a barrier to being featured. Notable examples include:

- **"Miss Meyers"**: A concise article that effectively covers its subject matter.
- **"Nico Ditch"**: A short article that meets all the criteria for FA status.
- **"Hurricane Irene (2005)"**: An article that, despite its brevity, provides thorough and accurate information.

Conclusion

The debate over very short articles achieving Featured Article status on Wikipedia highlights the importance of quality over quantity. While there are valid concerns about the potential impact on FACs and the main page, the examples of short featured articles demonstrate that it is possible to achieve high-quality content in a concise format. Ultimately, the focus should remain on presenting clear and concise information that effectively communicates the subject matter, ensuring that Wikipedia continues to be a reliable and comprehensive source of information.

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