



# Using Wikipedia to Begin Your Research Project! Really? Yes, really!

**College preparatory work requires you to use more sophisticated resources. Wikipedia is not bad, but it is not a sophisticated resource. It is an encyclopedia. College preparatory work requires books, journal articles, and authoritative websites. Do not list Wikipedia as a source. Use it for background information.**

## **How can Wikipedia help me conduct effective research?**

*Wikipedia can help you learn more about your topic. You can use that information to search for sophisticated resources that are authoritative and reliable.*

### **Generate a list of key words and phrases by writing down ...**

- ✓ *Topic phrases*
- ✓ *Names of organizations*
- ✓ *Names of people*
- ✓ *Relevant dates*
- ✓ *Related items/issues*

*Use these words and phrases when searching for resources on your topic.*

### **Use the “References” Section**

*Most Wikipedia articles have a “References” section that contains bibliographies with links to the original information sources. These citations can link you to authoritative websites, books, and academic articles.*

### **Use the “External Links” Section**

*These links can lead you to related information such as websites, projects, and organizations.*

- *REMEMBER! Not everything in the “References” or the “External Links” sections will be scholarly. It is up to you to evaluate it! How do you do that? See the back of this page.*
- *HINT! Do you see an author’s name listed? Jot down his/her name and use it as a search term.*

Bibliography