## Danger signs

Check for warning signs, or 'template' messages at the top of the article or section, within an article, and in the 'discussion' tab (or 'talk page'), e.g.

### The factual accuracy of this article is disputed.
Please see the relevant discussion on the talk page.

Good articles include a reference list attributing quotations to reliable sources. Check for any warnings about inadequate referencing, e.g.

### This article does not cite any references or sources.
Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources.

There may also be warning messages within an article, e.g.

- [citation needed]
- [verification needed]
- [unreliable source] [not in citation given]
- [original research]

Check for warnings that an article may be biased:

### The neutrality of this section is disputed.
Please see the discussion on the talk page.

Text: [opinion needs balancing] [neutrality disputed]

Check for disputes on the discussion or talk pages:

- [There is a dispute about this section and an editor has requested a third opinion.]
- [Check the history tab for evidence of vandalism, e.g. ('remove vandalism' or 'rvv vandalism')]
- [Check the history tab for evidence of vandalism or editing wars]

Also, check for a history of 'editing wars' between two or more editors repeatedly undoing each other's edits, e.g. ('revert' or 'rv')

## Good Articles

A small green cross within a circle in the discussion tab indicates a **Good Article**.

Good articles have no obvious problems, are approaching the quality of a professional encyclopedia, and meet the good article criteria:

- **well written** (following style guidelines)
- **broad** (in scope)
- **factually accurate**
- **neutral** (unbiased and fair)
- **stable** (not subject to editing wars)

However, the page you are viewing may have changed since it was judged a "Good Article". It may have been vandalised:

- Deleting accurate information
- Inserting false information

You can easily view earlier versions of the page by going to the 'history' tab and selecting a date and time (you can also compare any previous version of the page to the current version).

This is an **old revision** of this page, as edited by ... at...

It may differ significantly from the current revision.

If you have a Wikipedia account, you can revert or rollback the page to restore it to the earlier version.

**Former Good Articles** are those that no longer meet the Good Article criteria.

## Featured Articles

A small bronze star in the top right corner indicates a **Featured Article**.

Featured articles support their claims with specific evidence and external citations in a [reference list or bibliography](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:Citing_sources). These articles have been reviewed by Wikipedia’s editors and were found to meet the featured article criteria:

- **professionally written**
- **comprehensive** (in scope)
- **factually accurate**
- **neutral** (unbiased and fair)
- **stable** (not subject to editing wars)

The **discussion** tab includes further information:

- [Talk:Thoughts on the Education of Daughters](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Talk:Thoughts_on_the_Education_of_Daughters)

Remember that even Featured Articles can quickly change (or be vandalised), so always verify the information against a reputable source.

**Former Featured Articles** are those that no longer meet the Featured Article criteria.
Wikipedia: Academic Use

Wikipedia (like any encyclopedia), is a great starting point for research, helping you to:
- Get a general understanding of a topic.
- Identify keywords and search terms.
- Gather bibliographic references to locate other sources of information.

But it should not be cited as a source in itself. Use the reference lists in the Wikipedia article to:
- Find a reputable source that you can cite.
- Locate (and read) the cited reference sources to check whether they really:
  a) exist; and
  b) support the article.

Remember, Wikipedia (like any encyclopedia) is only a starting point, and should not be the only source that you consult for information. Unlike traditional encyclopedias:
- Wikipedia is a wiki, which means that anyone can edit or vandalise an article.

Use your judgement to evaluate all sources. The quality of Wikipedia content varies. Wikipedia has a colour-coded quality rating scale to help you evaluate an article:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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This handout in a nutshell

You should not use only Wikipedia for your research. Wikipedia is a great starting point, but there are a number of good reasons why you shouldn’t cite it in your bibliography:
- Wikipedia is an encyclopedia
- Wiki content can be modified at any time

Instead, you can use Wikipedia to:
- Get a basic understanding of a topic
- Identify more keywords and search terms
- Find additional sources of information on your topic (reliable sources that you can cite in your bibliography or reference list).

Further Reading:

Wikipedia includes more information about:

More guides on evaluating Wikipedia articles:

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