

ing greater gains than we could have achieved alone. As partners, we can celebrate the teachers we work with as they embody the goal of creating a science learning context where all students feel the excitement of learning, the creativity of inquiry, and employ the disposition to use science and scientific principles to help make informed decisions in their daily lives. Perhaps most importantly, through our work with BSCS, we have not only tightened our working relationships with distant colleagues, but have developed relationships as friends.

Project PRIME is hopefully only the first in a long strand of partnerships between NAU and BSCS, and BSCS with many other institutions of higher education. Only if we work together toward common goals and through agreed-upon means will we ever reach the vision of reform. For many of us, science education reform may only be "job security," but when you make the journey with partners like BSCS, the journey is part of the reward. Best wishes, BSCS, for your next 50 years!

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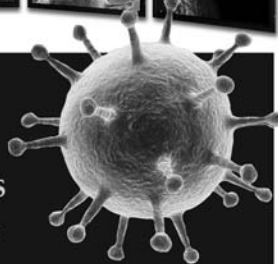
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## STUDENTS CONTRIBUTE TO A GLOBAL COMMUNITY THROUGH IMPROVEMENT OF WIKIPEDIA

RACHEL GOODMAN

Wikipedia is an encyclopedic source used by many of our students and people of all ages, backgrounds, and nationalities. Anyone can add to or alter entries on the Web site (within reason) which makes for a democratic, and some suggest, questionable source of knowledge. In this activity appropriate to many high school and college biology classes, students can use information they have learned in a course or material researched outside of course content to contribute to a global intellectual community by improving an entry on Wikipedia. In doing so, students should increase feelings of ownership about an area of knowledge. Also, they are introduced to the changing and subjective nature of online information sources, so that they more critically approach information encountered on the Internet.

Students are instructed to go to the Wikipedia main page, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main\\_Page](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page). They will peruse articles on various topics including or related to material covered in the course. Students find entries that they believe they can correct, improve, or expand. At this stage, the instructor should check that topics are appropriate and that each is not chosen by more than one student. The students cut and paste the online entry that they plan to improve, and submit this along with their proposed revisions to the instructor for approval.

The instructor should check the student's writing for accuracy of content, correct referencing style, grammar, spelling, and punctuation. When the student has received a final approval, he/she will complete the assignment by creating an account on Wikipedia and posting his/her writing online. Depending on the instructor's goals, the topic choices may be narrowed, and the required or suggested length of student writing can be varied. Also, students can be instructed to include their own photographs on the Wikipedia entry, if appropriate.

This activity should engage students by giving them ownership of an area of knowledge and making them share their new found "expertise" with a global community. At the completion of posting an entry online, I congratulate each student on sharing his/her knowledge with the world. Upon learning how easy it is to edit Wikipedia, students may choose to contribute other information in the future. Also, they will hopefully approach such online resources with more caution, knowing how easily anyone can edit the content.

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