

SM4SS-WP

Selected social media for classroom use: Wikipedia

An exploration of Wikipedia and what it has to say about Nazareth, PA

- Top-level entry
 - ...in [English](#)
 - ...in [Spanish](#)
 - ...in [French](#)
- Focusing on the top-level entry in English, note the
 - Length
 - History: How long has it been around? Who created it? How many edits since then?
 - Cross-referencing. For example, the current article mentions George Whitefield and links to a separate entry on Whitefield.
- Taking a close look at entries
 - Look at the entry on [George Whitefield](#).
 - Why doesn't it (as of this writing) mention Nazareth? The Whitefield House?
 - Examine the [Talk](#) page for this entry – has it at least been discussed?
 - Can we edit the article to improve it? Can we at least put a note on the Talk page?

Why bother with Wikipedia?

- Content = patchy, sometimes incorrect, vandalized, etc. (On the other hand, often far, far more thorough / current than textbook....)
- Vehicle for developing students' historical thinking skills ([diagram](#) of WP structure and HT-as-applied-epistemology)
- Opportunity for 'doing' history? For example, I wrote the first version of an entry on a Bethlehem history topic, steelworker [Henry Noll](#).
- And a short digression into cultural geography
 - Multiple WPs = different communities' voices, views.
 - <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lenape> -- you can look up whatever info you like
 - <http://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lenape> -- is this the same or different? Who wrote this?
 - <http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lenape> -- note the difference in title (Lenapes) -- Lenape by itself can refer to the people, the language, or a type of potato!

Re-capturing the point of this: Can you envision some possible use of Wikipedia for teaching a concept or skill in the coming school year?

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