



Assignment 3: Reading About A Wikipedia Controversy

1 Overview

As you know, Wikipedia is “a multilingual, web-based, free-content encyclopedia project supported by the Wikimedia Foundation and based on a model of openly editable content” (from Wikipedia:About, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:About>). Anyoen can make contributions to it, and soon you will be asked to make one yourself. Before we do though, it is instructive to learn about what can happen when a contributor and the registered editors disagree about an article, and when that disagreement gets a bit ugly. Ultimately the code of behavior was violated, which led to someone being banned from further contributions.

I came across the first article while trying to learn something about a local candidate for political office in Queens. She has the misfortune to have the same nme as a “porn star” and as a result searches for information about her on-line result in hits to the porn star instead. Someone tried to create a Wikipedia page about her, and this is how it all began.

2 Readings

First read this article:

<https://qz.com/1352568/running-for-office-is-hard-when-you-have-a-porn-stars-name-this-makes-it-worse/>

After you reas it, or perhaps when you get far enough, you will find a link to the archived discussion of why the page should be deleted. The direct link is

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Articles_for_deletion/Catalina_Cruz_\(politician\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Articles_for_deletion/Catalina_Cruz_(politician))

If you are curious, you can also read the article itself. Its author’s Wikipedia user name is BrillLyle:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/User:BrillLyle/Catalina_Cruz_\(politician\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/User:BrillLyle/Catalina_Cruz_(politician))

3 Your Weekly Blog Post

I am guessing that everyone will have a reaction to this debate. Was the author treated unfairly? Is the definition of notability reasonable? Were the editors justified in banning her when she violated the code of behavior? There are many questions.

Take a few minutes and write your thoughts down in the blog post for week 2, the file 2018-09-19.md. It does not have to be much. Do this before September 19.