

Effective Altruism Wiki FAQ

What is the EA Wiki?

The **Effective Altruism Wiki** (henceforth, the **Wiki**) is an attempt to build an online encyclopedia of effective altruism.

Who can contribute to the Wiki?

The Wiki can be edited by anyone with an EA Forum account. New articles are reviewed by the EA Forum moderators.

How does the Wiki relate to the tags?

Tags are labels that can be attached to posts, and that help us organize the Forum content. Adopting a clever innovation introduced by LessWrong, we allow Wiki articles to also serve as tags, and vice versa. Thus, clicking on a tag not only generates a list of all posts sharing that tag, but also displays the contents of the corresponding Wiki article. Extending the tag system in this way allows us to better integrate the Wiki with the Forum.

Why is the Wiki valuable?

EA content currently exists scattered in countless blog posts, forum articles, scholarly papers and even social media discussions. We believe there is considerable value in presenting all this content in summary form and organized systematically in a single location.

This helps those new to effective altruism familiarize themselves with its core ideas, and allows experienced EAs to find additional publications on a topic of interest. It also contributes to making EA concepts more notable and recognizable; makes this content more easily discoverable on search engines; and facilitates its inclusion in other reference works, such as Wikipedia or the *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*.

Contributing to the Wiki is valuable insofar as it improves its quality, expands its coverage, and helps it succeed. In addition, contributing now may be more valuable than contributing later, since arguably early contributions are more decisive in determining the fate of a wiki.

How can I contribute to the EA Wiki?

If you think you may be a good fit for it, you should consider contributing to the EA Wiki. **You can do this right now, and there is no need to read any further.**

What follows is some optional guidance for those who may find it helpful.

First, *consider becoming familiar with the basics of editing a Wiki article.*

- Organize the articles into sections. Start with a concise summary of the subject in the *lead section*, followed by as many sections and subsections as the article requires, and ending with a *bibliography* section. Optionally, you may also include, after that section, an *external links* section and a *related entries* section.
- When appropriate, provide *references*. Attach an inline citation to the clause or sentence you want to reference, as well as a full citation in the *bibliography* section. Inline citations should include the last name(s) of the author(s) and the year of publication, and can also include page or section numbers. Inline citations should not include any other information. Do not worry about the proper formatting of references in the bibliography; we delegate this task to an assistant who is already familiar with our conventions.
- Use internal links only (i.e. links to other EA Wiki articles, or "wikilinks"), except in the *bibliography* and *external links* sections.
- Write in an encyclopedic tone. Avoid slang, colloquialisms, legalese or unnecessary jargon. Avoid stating as facts claims that would be disputed by someone endorsing reasonable epistemic standards. Avoid making value judgments.
- You can see examples of articles that conform to these standards [here](#) and [here](#), and learn more by consulting our [Style Guide](#).

Second, *consider making substantive edits*. All contributions, however small, are welcome; even a seemingly minor edit such as fixing a typo can make an entry slightly less distracting to hundreds of readers. But some types of contributions are especially valuable. We encourage editors to make substantive edits that improve the information content of the entry. Especially valuable are early-stage edits that lay down the overall foundations of an entry and sets it on the right path.

Where can I find a list of all Wiki articles?

[Here](#) is an auto-generated list. [Here](#) is a list organized thematically. The latter may not be exhaustive; we are currently in the process of updating it.

Who makes Wiki-related decisions?

At the moment, anyone can add new articles, though only admins can delete them. Wiki policies were drafted by the EA Forum team and are periodically revised in response to feedback from contributors. Currently, the EA Forum team has the final say on all decisions related to the Wiki, though in the future we hope to explore other resolution mechanisms for Wiki disputes, and other governance structures for the Wiki.