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Wikipedia is not a good source for a research paper because its not a good quality website with correct information. In the ColbertNation report “Wikipedia Bans Scientologists,” Stephen Colbert gives examples for exactly why we cannot trust everything we read on Wikipedia. He was stated as being “a strong supporter of wikipedia since 1964” and that he was once the “original bass player for the Grateful Dead,” neither of which are true. Anyone can use Wikipedia and edit the information on the website. In this particular video Scientologists were banned from using the website because they were giving pro scientology bias in their entries on the site. But that shows how the website wikipedia is not a reliable source, because not all of the information on the site is true, a lot of it is opinions instead of facts; which is something important to watch out for when writing a research paper.

It is important to really look at sources and make sure the author and their source is of good quality and most importantly, unbiased. It is better to use information from scholarly books and academic journals, and to look at the references. In the interview with Stephen Colbert and Jimmy Wales, Creator of Wikepedia, Wales states, “It’s a free encyclopedia written by thousands of volunteers from all over the world, it’s constantly updated all the time.” He says, “anyone can change it back, fix it, if they have a reference or a source, if they want to dispute it and fix it they can do that.” People on the website who change information to something that is incorrect can be blocked from editing or the pages will be temporarily protected or locked down. But even with that, it would be hard to find all the wrong information and lock down all of those pages. Thus making Wikipedia’s information a hard source to trust, especially for writing research papers.