

**What is the size  
of the audience  
for an  
undergraduate  
paper?**







**But how hard did a student work?  
Who else is going to benefit from this  
knowledge creation?**



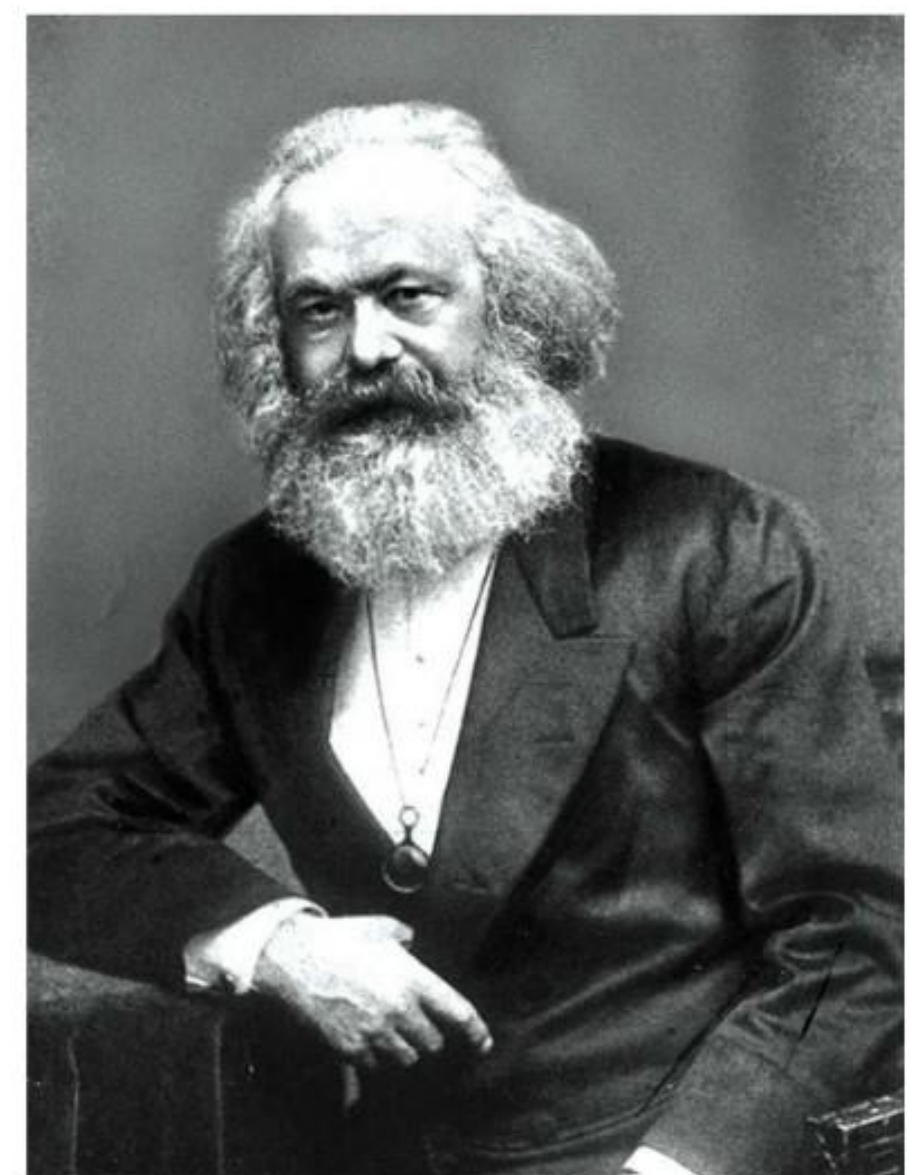
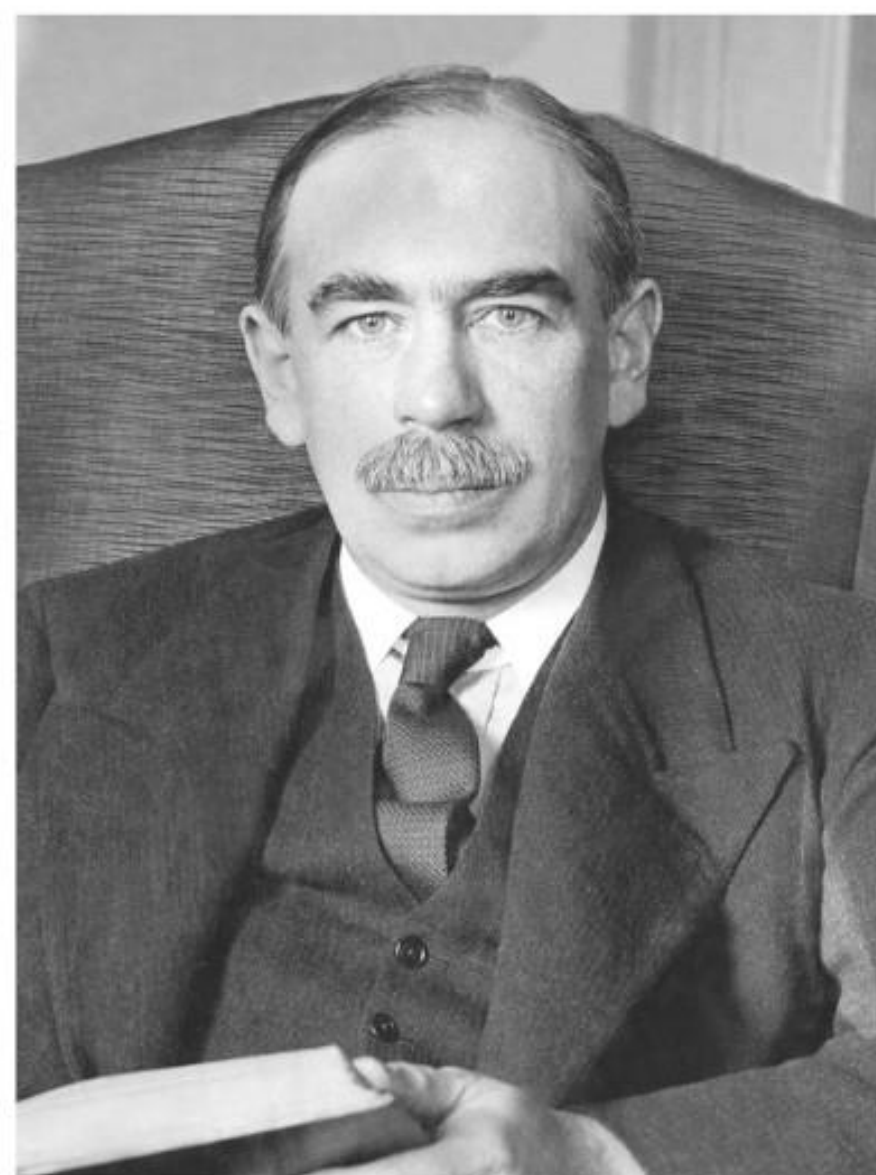
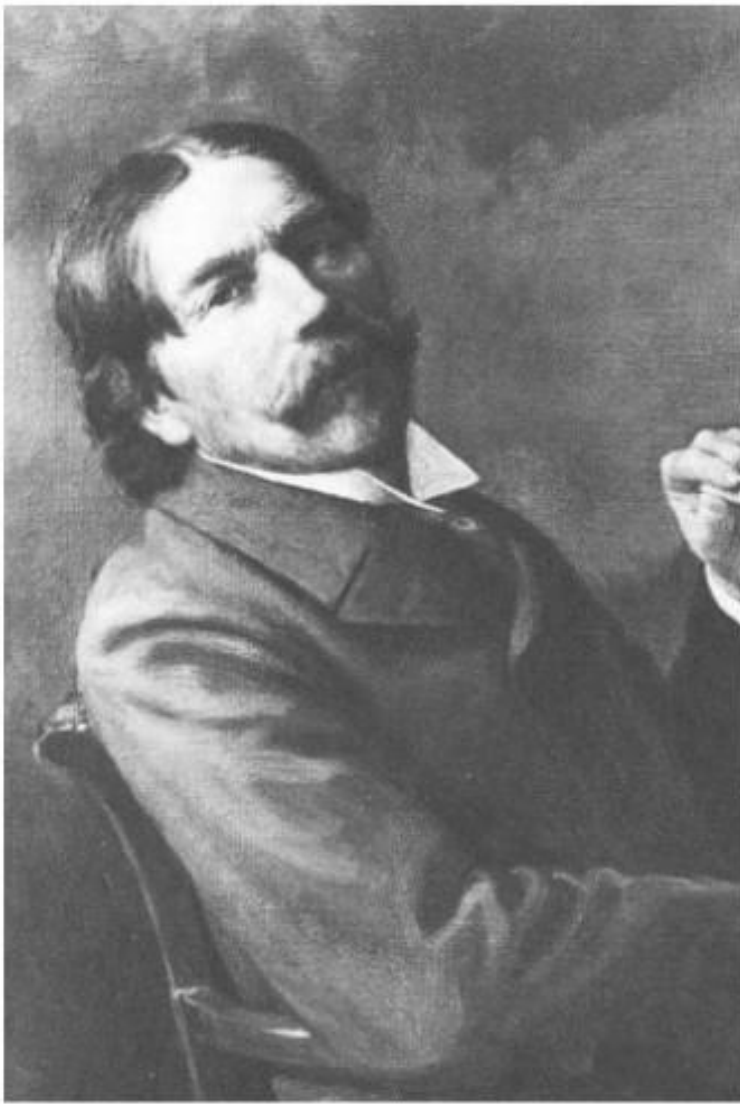


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Washington State  
University



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# WIKIPEDIA AND ECONOMIC THOUGHT: USING THE CLASSROOM TO CONTRIBUTE TO PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE

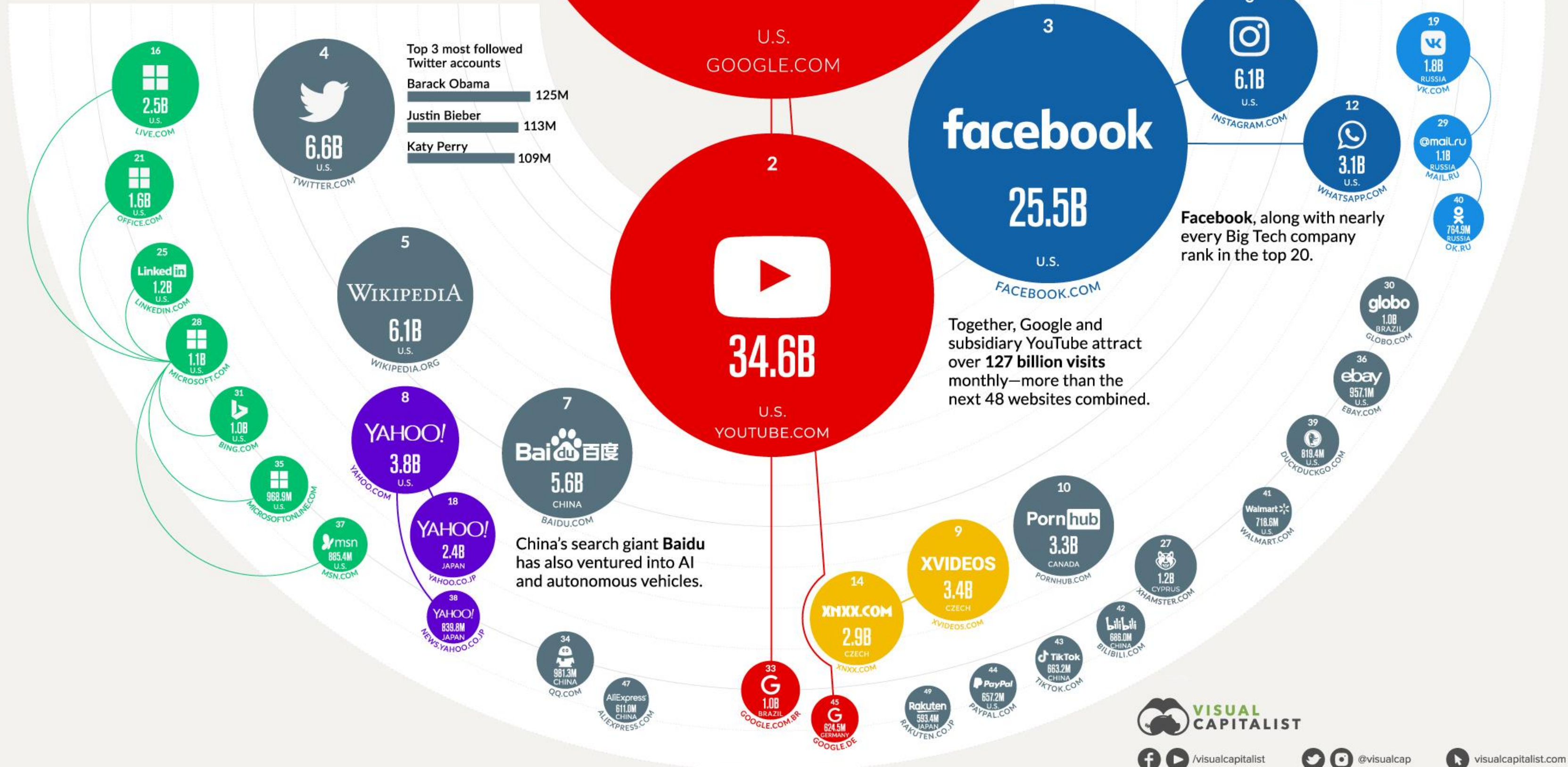
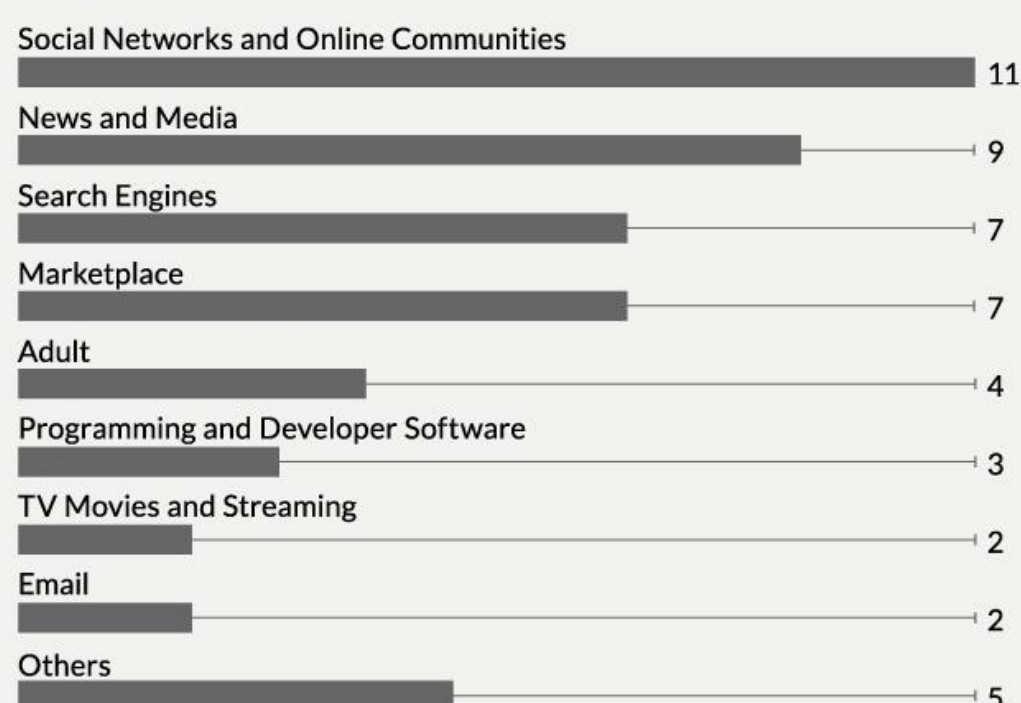




# THE WORLD'S Top 50 Websites

Below, we show the key players—from Google to Twitter—that currently dominate the Internet.

## BREAKDOWN BY CATEGORIES (GLOBAL, NOV 2020)





# Science is Shaped by Wikipedia: Evidence From a Randomized Control Trial\*

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## Abstract

*"I sometimes think that general and popular treatises are almost as important for the progress of science as original work." — Charles Darwin, 1865*

Incorporating ideas into Wikipedia leads to those ideas being used more in the scientific literature. We provide *correlational* evidence of this across thousands of Wikipedia articles and *causal* evidence of it through a randomized control trial where we add new scientific content to Wikipedia. In the months after uploading it, an average new Wikipedia article in Chemistry is read tens of thousands of times and causes changes to hundreds of related scientific journal articles. Patterns in these changes suggest that Wikipedia articles are used as review articles, summarizing an area of science and highlighting the research contributions to it. Consistent with this reference article view, we find causal evidence that when scientific articles are added as references to Wikipedia, those articles accrue more academic citations.

# THERE IS A NEED

## Say's law

31 languages

Article Talk Read Edit View history Tools

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



This article has multiple issues. Please help [improve it](#) or discuss these issues on the [talk page](#). ([Learn how and when to remove these template messages](#))

- This article **is written like a personal reflection, personal essay, or argumentative essay** that states a Wikipedia editor's personal feelings or presents an original argument about a topic. (*October 2021*)
- Some of this article's [listed sources may not be reliable](#). (*October 2021*)

In [classical economics](#), **Say's law**, or the **law of markets**, is the claim that the production of a product creates demand for another product by providing something of value which can be exchanged for that other product. So, production is the source of demand. In his principal work, *A Treatise on Political Economy* (*Traité d'économie politique*, 1803), [Jean-Baptiste Say](#) wrote: "A product is no sooner created, than it, from that instant, affords a market for other products to the full extent of its own value."<sup>[1]</sup> And also, "As each of us can only purchase the productions of others with his own productions – as the value we can buy is equal to the value we can produce, the more men can produce, the more they will purchase."<sup>[2]</sup>

### As a theoretical point of departure [\[ edit \]](#)



This section **needs additional citations for verification**. Please help [improve this article](#) by [adding citations to reliable sources](#) in this section. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. (*April 2012*) ([Learn how and when to remove this template message](#))



This section **possibly contains original research**. Please [improve it](#) by [verifying](#) the claims made and adding [inline citations](#). Statements consisting only of original research should be removed. (*March 2018*) ([Learn how and when to remove this template message](#))

The whole of neoclassical equilibrium analysis implies that Say's law in the first place functioned to bring a market into this state: that is, Say's law is the mechanism through which markets equilibrate uniquely. Equilibrium analysis and its derivatives of optimization and efficiency in exchange live or die with Say's law. This is one of the major, fundamental points of contention between the neoclassical tradition, Keynes, and Marxians. Ultimately, from Say's law they deduced vastly different conclusions regarding the functioning of capitalist production.

### Consequences [\[ edit \]](#)

A number of laissez-faire consequences have been drawn from interpretations of Say's law. However, Say himself advocated public works to remedy unemployment and criticized Ricardo for neglecting the possibility of hoarding if there was a lack of investment opportunities.<sup>[29]</sup>

#### Recession and unemployment [\[ edit \]](#)



This section **does not cite any sources**. Please help [improve this section](#) by [adding citations to reliable sources](#). Unsourced material may be challenged and [removed](#). (*April 2013*) ([Learn how and when to remove this template message](#))

Say argued against claims that businesses suffer because people do not have enough money. He argued that the power to purchase can only be increased through more production.

# STUDENT BENEFIT

Skin in the game

- Contributions are seen by the general public. They make a difference!
  - Years later, students proudly report that their edits are still up.
- Wikipedia requires high level writing
  - Citations
  - Neutral tone
  - No opinion/original analysis
  - Summarizing/Synthesizing



# THE ASSIGNMENT

- End of Semester 6–page essay
- Includes a 250 word edit to an existing Wikipedia Page
- If the edit stays present for at least three weeks, then students are awarded 1.5% extra credit.
- Include Edit in paper's appendix, including Wikipedia Username.

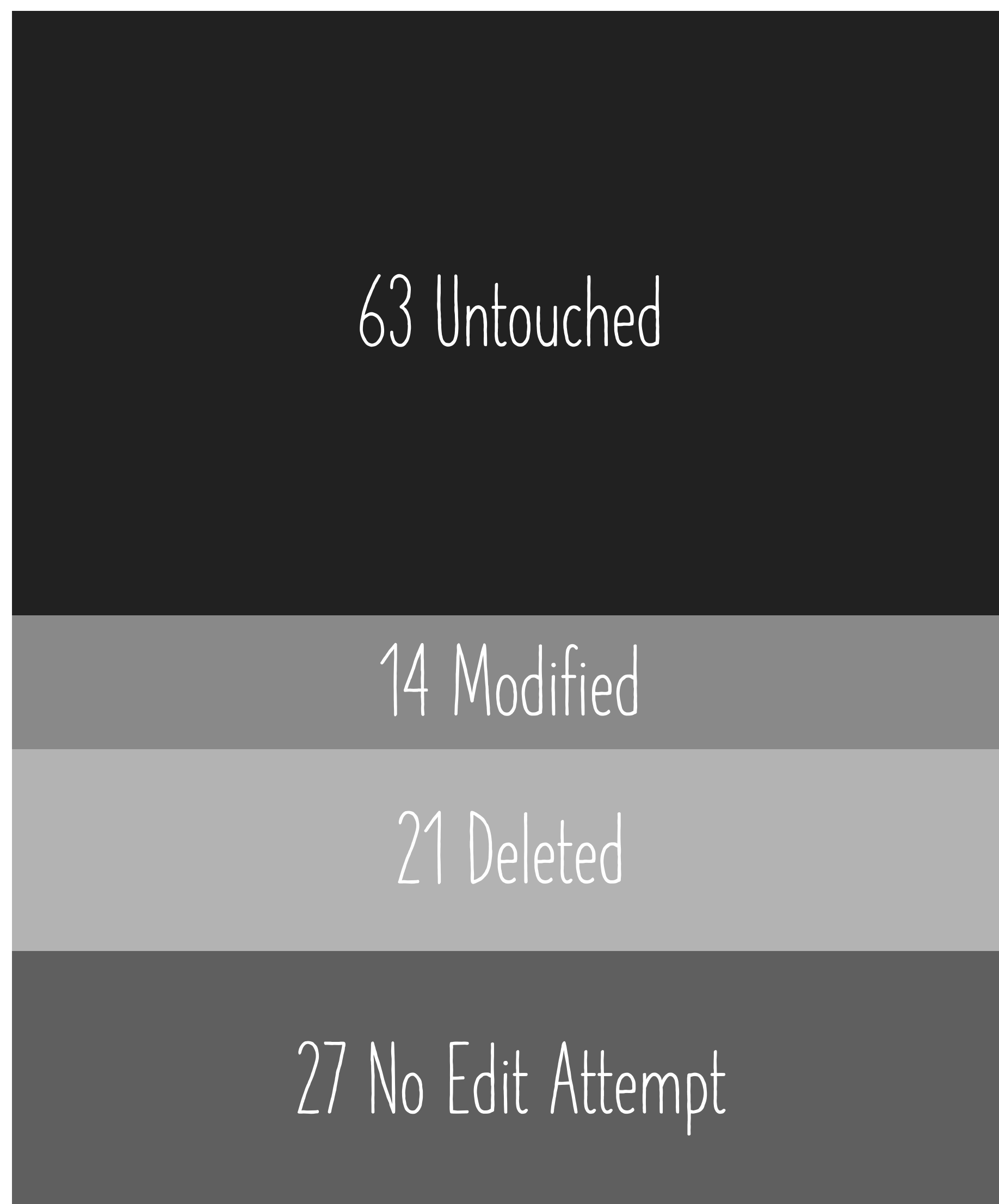
From their [Editing Tutorial](#): "The goal of a Wikipedia article is to create a comprehensive and [neutrally written](#) summary of existing mainstream knowledge about a topic: Wikipedia does not publish [original research](#). An encyclopedia is, by its nature, a [tertiary source](#) that provides a survey of information already published in the wider world. So we require that information be [verifiable](#) in [reliable external sources](#). Ideally, all information should refer to reliable outside sources, using [citations](#). When adding content and creating new articles, an [encyclopedic style](#) with a [formal tone](#) is important. Instead of essay–like, argumentative, or opinionated writing, Wikipedia articles should have a straightforward, [just-the-facts style](#)."



# BEST PRACTICES

- Remember this is part of a community
  - No free loading our grading
- Take classroom time to properly prepare students
  - Objective Tone
  - Proper Citation Format
  - Quality Writing
    - No "fluff" or redundancy
    - Active voice
    - Conciseness
  - Is their contribution appropriate for the article? Does it add something that was missing?

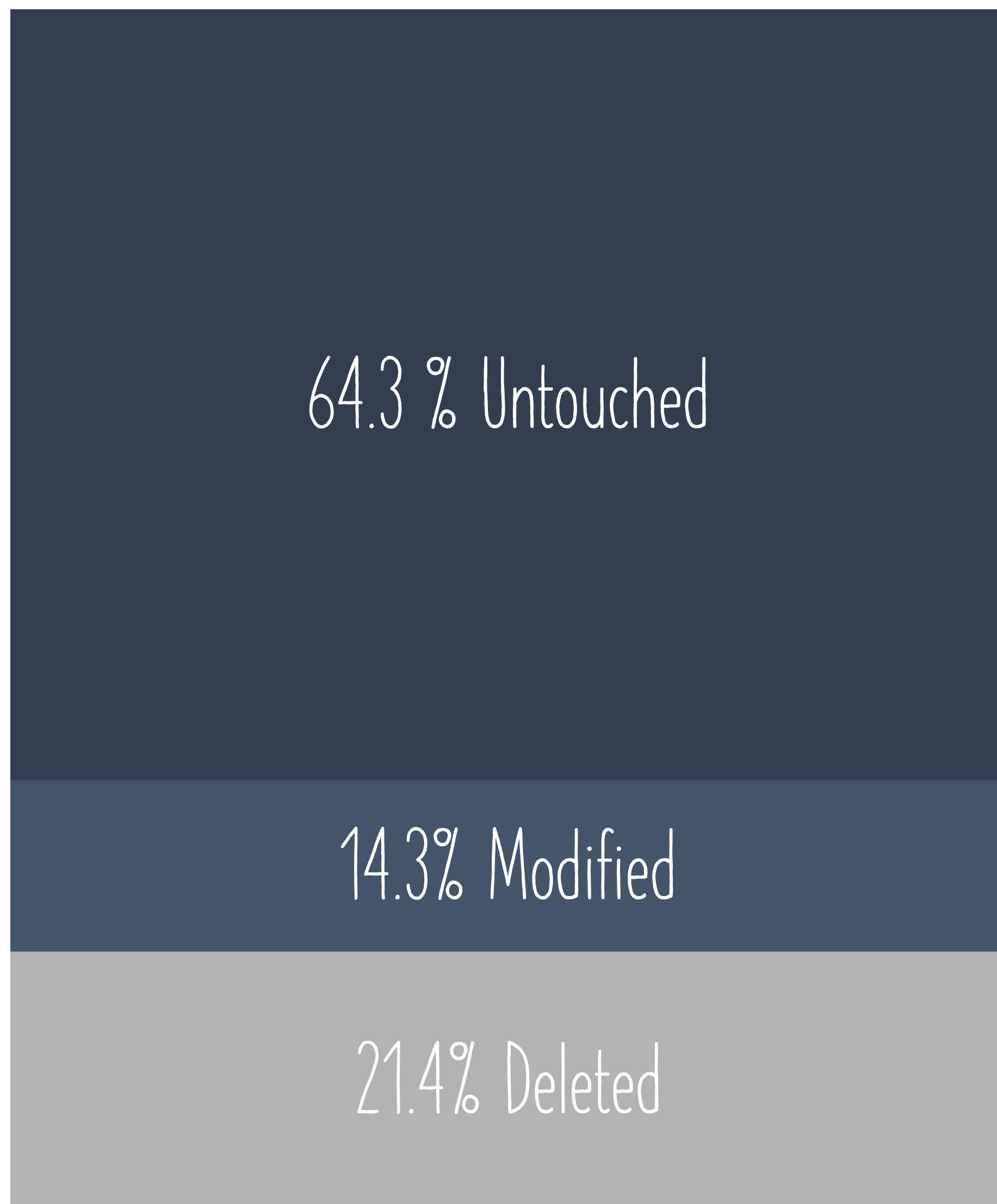
# DATA



Spring 2020 – Spring 2023, 5 semesters  
125 submitted papers

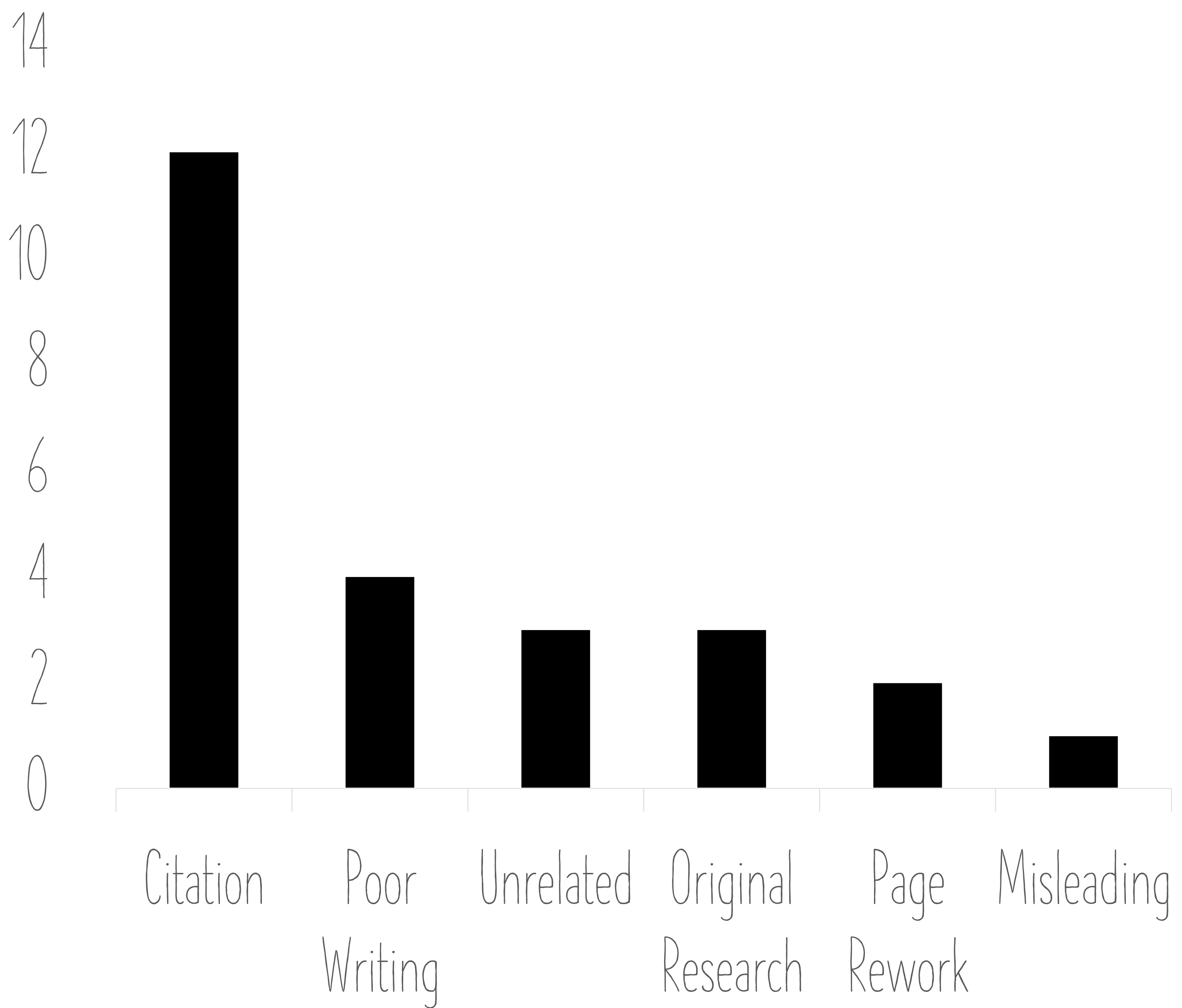


# SUCCESS RATE



78.6% Edits Still Remain

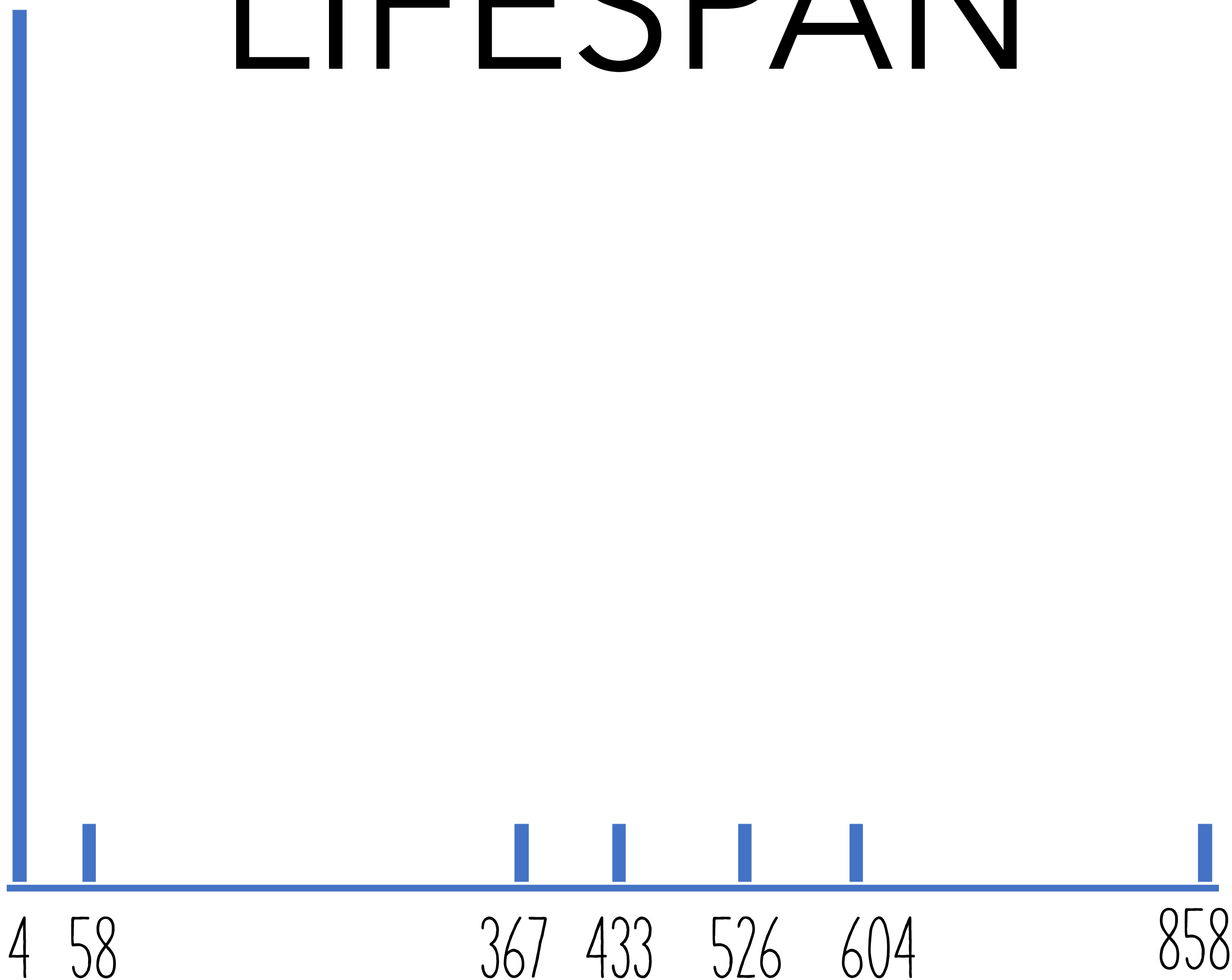
# CITATIONS!



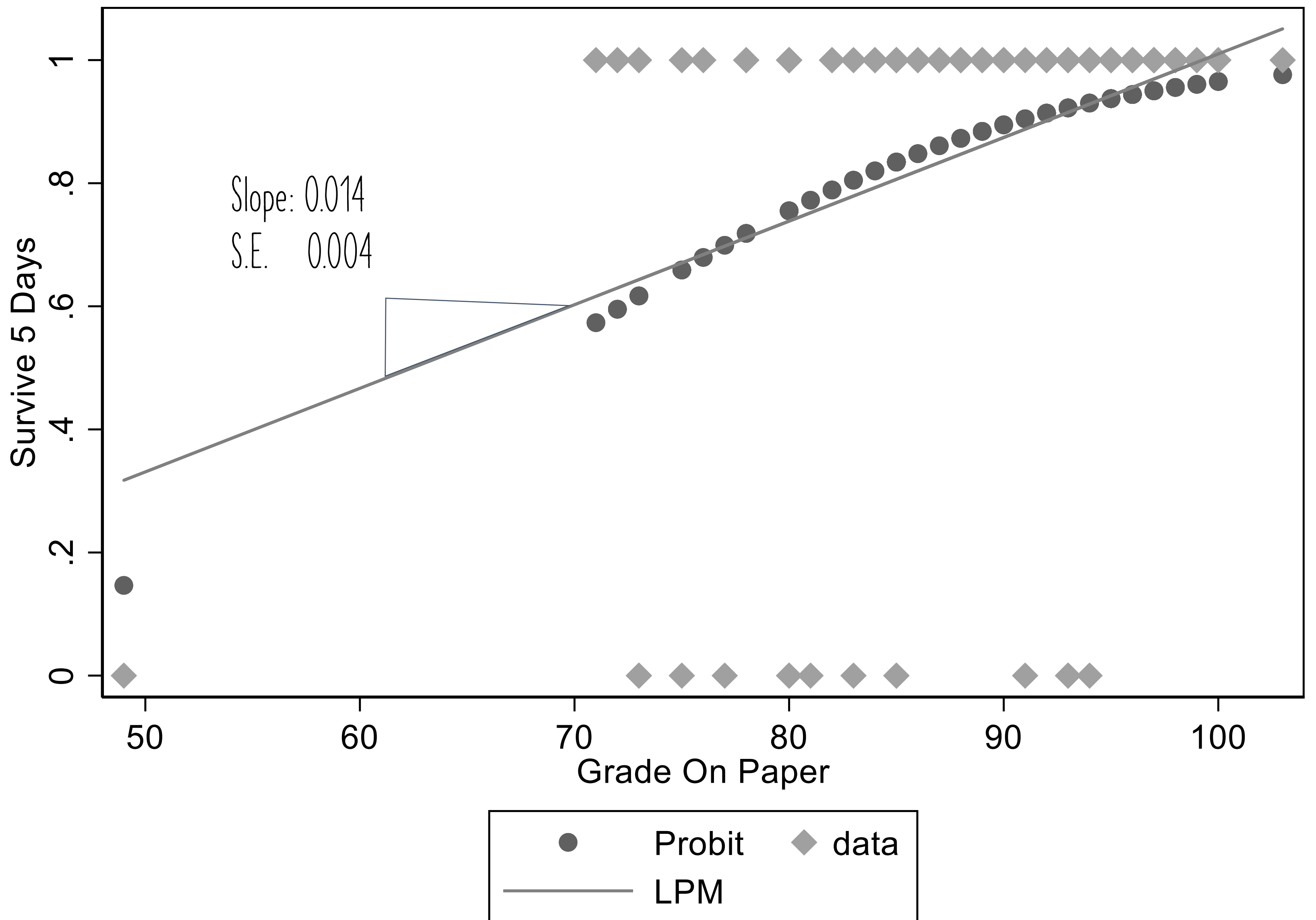
Reasons for Edit Deletions



# DELETION LIFESPAN

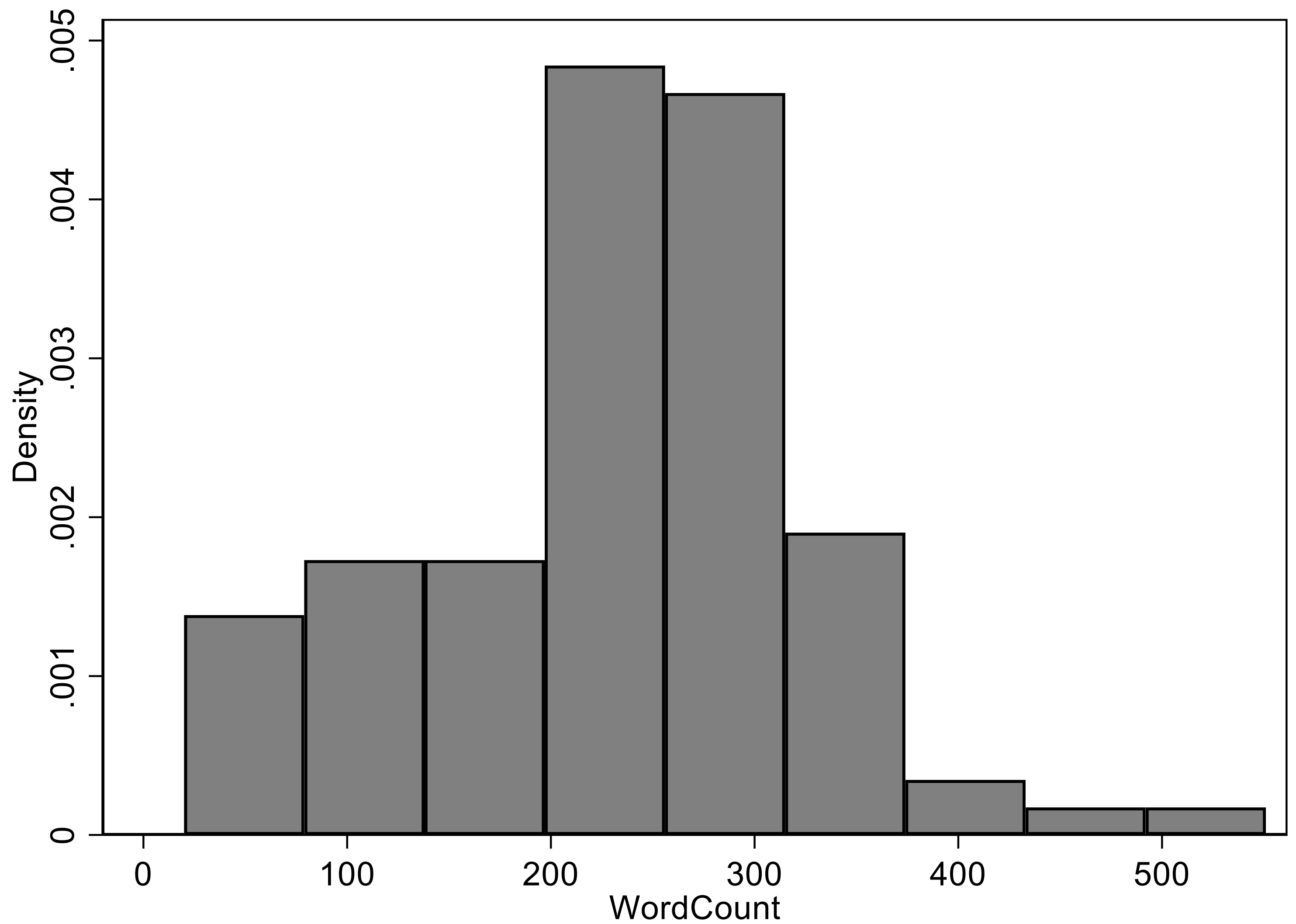


71% are deleted in first 5 days



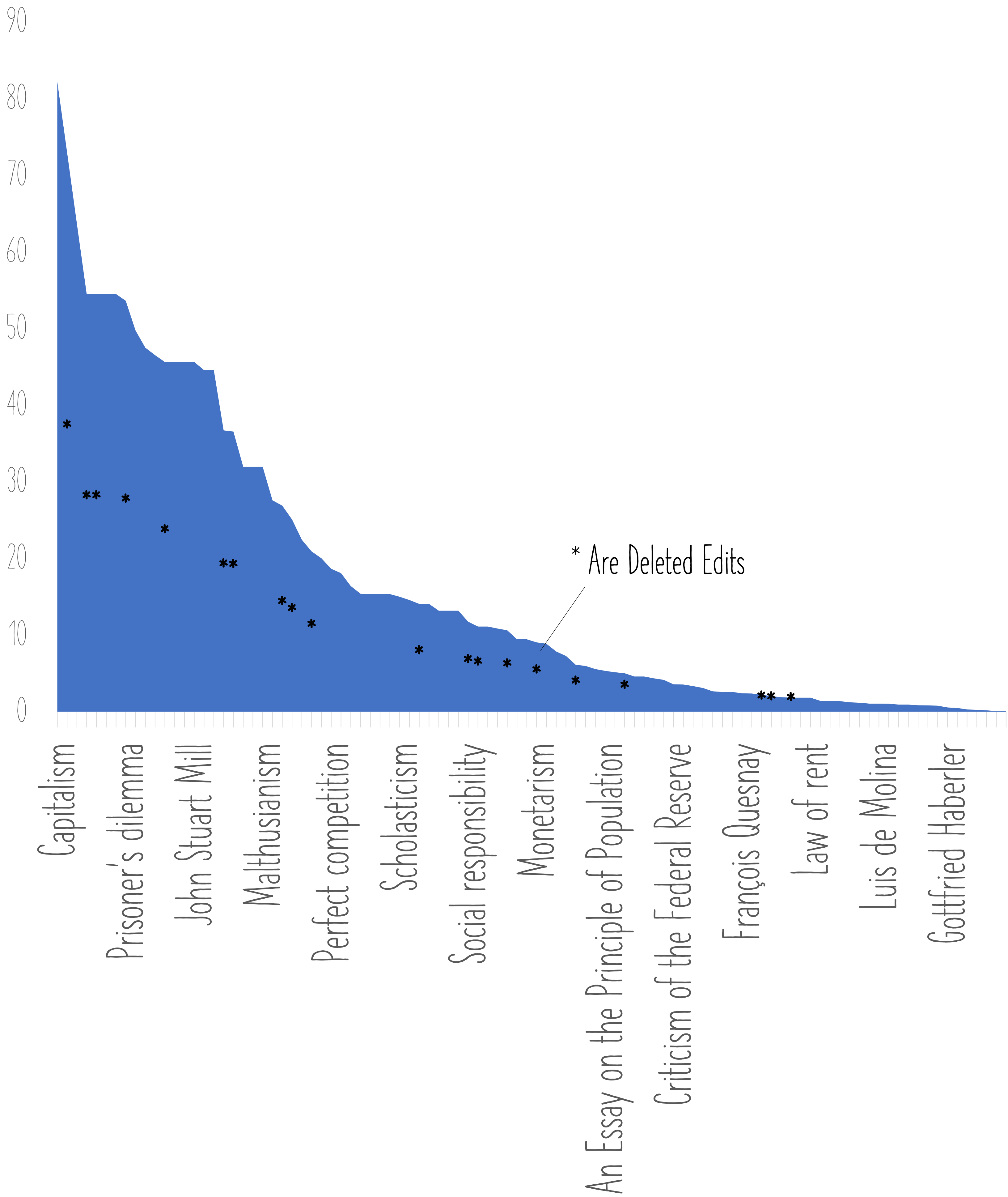
**ONE LETTER GRADE INCREASE  
ON THE PAPER IS ASSOCIATED  
WITH 14% INCREASED  
LIKELIHOOD OF REMAINING**





Word Count does not  
make a difference.

# Page Views





	Survive 5 Days			
	OLS	Probit	OLS	Probit
Grade on Paper	0.014***	0.064***	0.016***	0.090***
	(0.004)	(0.017)	(0.004)	(0.024)
Word Count	0.0005	0.003	0.0005	0.002
	(0.0004)	(0.002)	(0.0004)	(0.002)
Page Views	-0.039*	-0.175**	-0.040*	-0.200*
	(0.021)	(0.085)	(0.024)	(0.104)
R-Squared/Pseudo R-Squared	0.203	0.230	0.242	0.308
Semester Fixed Effects			x	x
Parentheses are robust standard errors. 97 observations.				



A black and white photograph of a classroom. In the foreground, several students are seated at desks, some looking towards the camera and others looking away. In the background, a teacher is standing near a whiteboard, and a laptop is visible on a desk. The text "How Can Everyone Use This?" is overlaid on the image in a large, white, sans-serif font. The word "This?" is italicized.

How Can  
Everyone  
Use  
*This?*



# Small to Medium Classes

- Focus on smaller articles
- Intermediate Micro/Macro
  - Current Events
- Upper Division Electives
- Read/Summarize an accessible paper
  - J of Econ Perspectives, J of Econ Literature
  - Blogs, Econ Media, EconoFact.org





# Listen to Live Wikipedia Edits

[listen.hatnote.com](https://listen.hatnote.com)