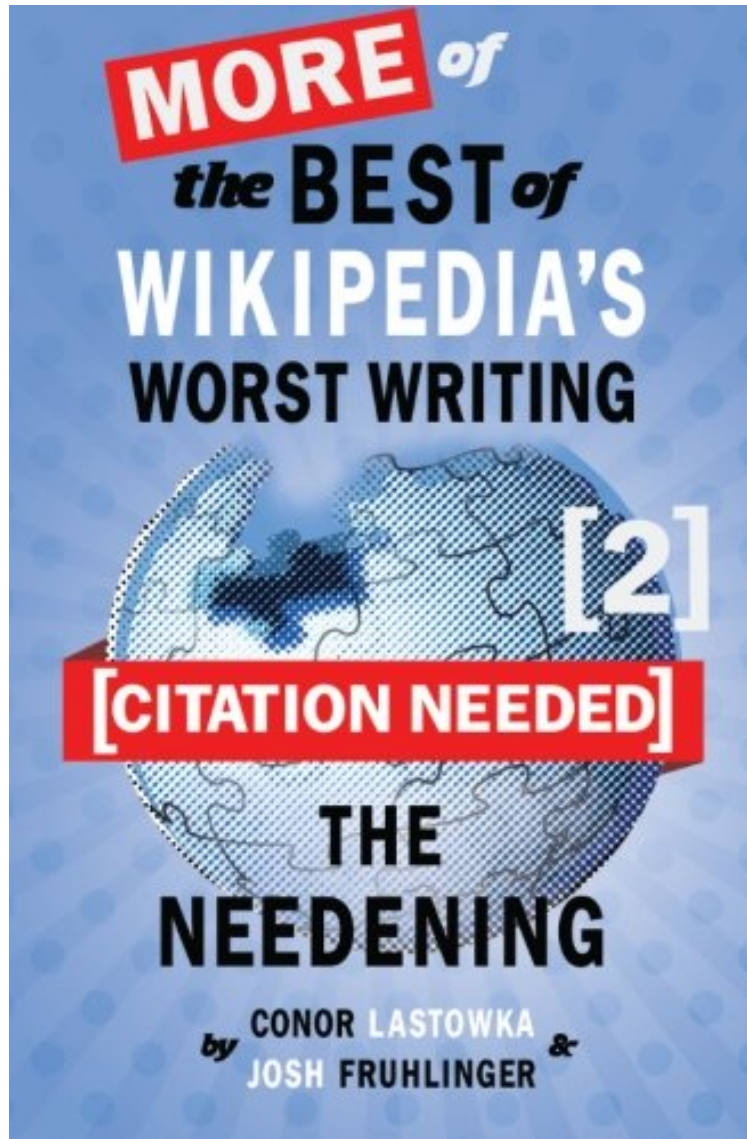


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## [Citation Needed] 2: The Needening: More of The Best of Wikipedia's Worst Writing

*Conor Lastowka, Josh Fruhlinger*  
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**Conor Lastowka, Josh Fruhlinger : [Citation Needed] 2: The Needening: More of The Best of Wikipedia's Worst Writing** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised [Citation Needed] 2: The Needening: More of The Best of Wikipedia's Worst Writing:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Sisyphus And The Trix Rabbit: Twins Of The CosmosBy Robert I.

Hedges Conor Lastowka and Josh Fruhlinger have compiled a great deal of useless information in "[Citation Needed] 2," which is no problem really, seeing as how so much of it is questionably reliable at best. Wikipedia can be useful as a starting point for research, but given the ability of anyone with an Internet connection to create and alter entries, the quality of the information can be sometimes...ummm...lacking. (Please see Mike Nelson's brilliant introduction for more on this.) These Wikipedia entries are hilarious in and of themselves, but the commentary from Lastowka and Fruhlinger more than double the fun. Take, for instance the entry for the TV series "On The Air" (which I have never even heard of): "Blinky Watts...suffers from 'Bozeman's Simplex,' a disease that causes him to see 25.62 times more than anyone else. It comes off oven mitt. Oven mitt. Oven mitt...." Although the authors include the entire entry, believe me when I tell you that that's a representative sample. Their comment? "Guys, is it possible for a Wikipedia article to have a stroke?" Perfect! Other examples of brilliant skewering are contained throughout, witness the entry for "Cheese sandwich": "A cheese sandwich is a basic sandwich made generally with one or more slices of any kind of cheese on any sort of bread." (Comment: "From the Food Network's newest hit series 'Anthony Bourdain Phones It In.'") My favorite piece of commentary refuted "The Three Billy Goats Gruff" as a masculinity myth (I won't quote it here, but it insightfully skewers much expensive and pointless graduate study.) Other high points are the jocularity inherent in the process of dealing with epenthetic vowels in Scottish Gaelic ("The sequences ms and mch are also epentheticised, just for fun."), and possibly my favorite example of lack of clarity of concept in the book, found under the subject of "Car numberplate game," which reads as follows: "If you call out a license plate that has already been named, or you yell out a wrong state, you have to punch yourself in the face or pull out a hair from your head as a penalty. This is also possible in Ireland." But is it possible in Uganda? How about Monaco? It's so unclear to me. Perhaps I should append that entry after researching this issue a bit more. This book is an extremely quick read (an hour or so,) but some of the entries and particularly the commentaries made me laugh out loud. While it's true that Wikipedia can be useful, "[Citation Needed] 2" makes for hilarious cautionary reading. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. As funny as the first! By Kelly Just as hilarious as the first Citation Needed! The "dedication" to the winner of an edit war on a Star Trek article kicks off the humor, and it gets better and better from there. I love how each item has a link to the wikipedia page it's about--it's fun to go and see whether or not these horrifyingly hilarious edits are still on the wikipedia (spoiler: many of them are). The part that makes the book though is the author commentaries. They're full of dry wit and made me laugh out loud more than once. I really hope they do more of these books! 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. As funny as the first! By M. Steelman I loved the first of these books so I got this one as soon as I saw it. The entries themselves are amusing but when you get to the commentary it gets 10X funnier. Or more. The authors apparently watched MST3K and Monty Python because their comments are like those two had offspring. Hilarious, often to the point of snorting. Looking forward to the next one.

After [Citation Needed] there must come...The Needening! Are you curious whether the color of your unibrow is affected by dying your hair? In search of information about how to improve your Batusi moves? Want to know which beverage Janis Joplin is mediumly associated with? Really? What the hell is wrong with you? Well, if you must seek out these answers, there's only one source worth turning to. No, not your grandfather. He served in World War II. Do not ask him questions about Sonic The Hedgehogs genitals. Were talking about Wikipedia! [Citation Needed] 2: The Needening contains over 200 more examples of so bad its good Wikipedia writing, with original commentary for each entry by authors Conor Lastowka Josh Fruhlinger, plus a foreword by Mike Nelson of RiffTrax and MST3K! You'll laugh, you'll cry, and you may even learn something that probably isn't true. Praise for Volume 1 in the series: "Wikipedia has long been my favored source of dubious scholarship, unverified assertions, press-release hagiography, and confusing recaps of comic books in long run-on sentences. It is not merely that this material is USEFUL to a writer of fake trivia. There is also a strange pleasure that comes in witnessing very bad writing and wondering at the human mind that conceives it, and why that mind is so preoccupied with the drama behind the scenes of House Party 4. I am just glad that I now have the best of the worst, all hilariously annotated by Fruhlinger and Lastowka, and all bound in one non-internet volume such that I can enjoy these bits of grim, awkward human poetry without feeling tempted to get into a huge online fight over the weight of Mr. Belvedere." -John Hodgman

About the Author Josh Fruhlinger is the creator of the Comics Curmudgeon, a surprisingly successful blog that makes fun of Mary Worth and Apartment 3-G and proves that pretty much anyone can become mildly famous on the Internet for any reason whatsoever, as long as they update every day. His writing has also appeared on Wonkette and The Awl, and his first novel, The Enthusiast, will be published in 2013. He lives in Baltimore with his wife Amber and his cat Hoagie. Conor Lastowka is a writer for RiffTrax.com. His first novel, Gone Whalin, will be published in 2013. He lives in San Diego with his wife Lauren and his cat Slidell.