Case #2: The capital of Kyrgyzstan

Marsha Bronson has to write a paper on Central Asian environmental issues for her Political Science class. She has been assigned to write on the Republic of Kyrgyzstan. As she starts her paper, she realizes that she doesn’t know the name of the capital city of Kyrgyzstan, so she looks it up on Wikipedia, finds out that the capital is Bishkek, and she starts her essay like this:

Situated on a high plateau in the far north of Kyrgyzstan, the capital city of Bishkek sits just five miles from the Kazakh border. With the next closest bordering country being China, over 1,000 miles away, it seems natural that Bishkek would be affected by Kazakh environmental issues. . .

Marsha knows she forgot to cite Wikipedia, but she also knows that professors usually frown on using Wikipedia in the first place. She decides to hand in the paper without citing Wikipedia. Should Marsha be worried about plagiarism?