



ENGL 101 Fall 2018

Wikipedia Edit

Due date: 10/01

Goals



Use writing processes to generate, develop, share, revise, proofread and edit a Wikipedia article.



Understand, evaluate, and integrate others' texts into your own writing with appropriate citations and avoid plagiarism.



Edit a Wikipedia article that shows genre awareness, rhetorical situations, structure, purpose, significant content, and audience awareness.



Critically reflect on how to apply the genre knowledge of Wikipedia editing to other writing situations, including your field of study.

Project Description

Overview: Wikipedia's open-access feature gives every registered user the opportunity to edit its entries. In groups, you will expand a Wikipedia start-class article about an underrepresented social group, evaluating and documenting sources to enhance the credibility and richness of the article. Each of you will include at least **2-3 external source** for the edit. The purposes of this assignment are to help you gain awareness of informative genres of writing, and to let you critically address Wikipedia's information gaps.

Group Reflection: After finishing the project, together with your groupmates, you will collaboratively submit a **4-5 page** reflection essay. You may use the following questions to guide your thinking as you reflect:



- What have you learned about the genre conventions and rhetorical situations of Wikipedia articles?
- What content gaps have you found and how did you address the gaps in your edit?
- What are your combined contributions to the Wikipedia edit?
- What difficulties have you encountered and how did you manage the difficulties?
- How does this assignment build your critical thinking skills as an academic writer?
- How will this writing assignment help you with future assignments in other writing contexts and your fields of study?

Length and Format

Your Wikipedia edit should follow the citation styles on Wikipedia. Group reflection essays should be **4-5 pages** (1200-1500 words), double spaced, Times New Roman, 12 point font.

It is a **multiple-draft** assignment. The rough draft is due during our group conferences on either **09/24** or **09/26**. You will revise your draft and upload the final edit on Wikipedia by **10/01**. Your reflection essay is due on D2L by **10/01**.



- Information presented on Wikipedia is organized in a **logical** manner. You may begin by defining a topic and dividing it into subtopics. Please be consistent with the format, include headings/subheadings, and hyperlink the key words and subtopics.
- Wikipedia articles are **not exhaustive**. Keep your Wikipedia edit focused, brief, and clear. You may read existing Wikipedia entries for an idea of brevity.
- Wikipedia articles include **foot notes and a reference list**. Make sure that you follow the citation styles of Wikipedia.
- Your **audience** for this entry includes both general non-professional and specialized professional readers who have access to your Wikipedia article.
- Your audience will assume the authority and trustworthiness of your Wikipedia edit. In other words, you should consider using styles and voice that convey your authority as a writer, such as using formal, academic language and a **third-person, serious** tone.

Your Wikipedia edit will be graded on the following categories: (Total number of points: 20 pts.)

Grading Criteria



- **Genre Awareness:** Demonstrating awareness with the informative style of the Wikipedia edit. Including information relevant to the assigned topic, links to other relevant articles, and references associated with every statement. (20%/ 4 pts.)
- **Organization** Using a clear and logical organization of headings/subheadings, transitions, and clear language/grammar. (20%/ 4 pts.)
- **Support and Sources:** Demonstrating the ability to evaluate, document and summarize sources to provide support for your Wikipedia entry. Including at least 1 source in your entry (per person) and some synthesis of ideas from these sources. (20%/ 4 pts.)
- **Group Reflection:** Reflecting on your process of editing a Wikipedia article and on the application of the rhetorical knowledge to other writing situations. (20%/ 4 pts.)
- **Writer's Ethos:** Meeting the minimum length requirement. Using formal, academic language and a neutral tone. Using the appropriate citation format for Wikipedia entries. It is carefully proofread and lacks errors. (20%/ 4 pts.)

