Sample syllabus

This document provides a **week-by-week breakdown** of how professors might be able to incorporate Wikipedia assignments into their classes. As the name suggests, it is purely meant to be a **sample** – as a resource that you can use and adapt when you plan your course. The document includes some key milestones that have proven to be highly effective at ensuring that students derive the greatest educational benefits from editing Wikipedia.

1 Week 1

In class

- » Overview of the course
- » Introduction to the Wikipedia part of the course
- » Handout: "Welcome to Wikipedia" brochure

Assignments for students (due week 2)

- » Read the page "Wikipedia:Five pillars" on Wikipedia

2 Week 2

In class

- » Campus Ambassadors introduce Wikipedia
    - » Basics of editing
    - » Anatomy of Wikipedia articles, what makes a good article, how to distinguish between good & bad articles
    - » Tips & recommendations for best articles to work on for the class assignments
    - » Handout: "Creating an account" how-to, "Evaluating Wikipedia article quality" brochure

2 Week 2 (continued)

Assignments for students (due week 3)

» Create a Wikipedia user account, create a user page, and add your name to the course page's list of students (on the WikiProject)

» Contact an Online Ambassador (via his/her Wikipedia user talk page) as a mentor. Mentors will be available to offer advice and assistance as you start editing.

» To practice the editing features of Wikipedia, leave a message for a few classmates on their user talk pages.

✓ **All students have Wikipedia user accounts and are listed on the course page.**

3 Week 3

In class

» Campus Ambassadors introduce students to IRC (online chat system where students can get live support) and show students how to contact Online Ambassador mentors

Assignments for students (due week 4)

» Critically evaluate an existing Wikipedia article related to the class, and leave suggestions for improving it on the article's discussion page.

» Research and list 3–5 articles on your Wikipedia user page that you will consider working on as your main project. Ask your Online Ambassador mentor for comments.

Week 4

» Professor evaluates student's article selections, by week 5.

Week 5

In class

» Handout: "Referencing on Wikipedia" how-to

Assignments for students (due week 6)

» Decide which article you will work on and list it on the course page. Compile a bibliography of relevant sources, and begin researching the topic.

» Research and list 3–5 articles on your Wikipedia user page that you will consider working on as your main project. Ask your Online Ambassador mentor for comments.

Week 6

In class

» Campus Ambassadors talk about Wikipedia sandboxes and Wikipedia culture/etiquette.

» Campus Ambassadors hold question-and-answer session with students.

Assignments for students (due week 7)

» Write a 3–4 paragraph summary version of your article (with citations) in your Wikipedia sandbox.

» Begin working with Online Ambassador mentor to polish your short starter article and fix any major transgressions of Wikipedia norms.

» Continue research in preparation for expanding your article.

6 | # Week 6 (continued)

✓ **All students have started editing articles or drafts on Wikipedia.**

7 | # Week 7

In class

» Handout: "Moving article from sandbox into main space" how-to, handout "Did you know nominations"

Assignments for students (due week 8)

» Move your sandbox article into Wikipedia's main space (live articles).

» Nominate your article for "Did You Know" status, and monitor the nomination for any issues identified by other editors.

» Begin expanding your article into a comprehensive treatment of the topic.

8 | # Week 8

In class or outside of class

» Campus Ambassadors lead Wikipedia lab/workshop, ideally in a computer-lab setting:

  » Article ratings on Wikipedia & how to get there
  » Adding images to Wikipedia articles

Assignments for students (due week 8)

» Expand your article into an initial draft of a comprehensive treatment of the topic.

Week 9

Assignments for students (due week 10)

» Peer review two classmates' articles:
  » Leave suggestions and comments on those classmates' article discussion pages
  » Copy-edit peers' articles

✔ **All students peer-reviewed their classmates' articles.**

Week 10

In class

» Recommended activity: open discussion around the concepts of neutrality, media literacy, and the impact and limits of Wikipedia.

Assignments for students (due week 11)

» Revise your article based on peers' feedback.
» Nominate your article for "Good Article" status.
» Prepare for in-class presentation about your Wikipedia-editing experiences.

Week 11

In class

» Students give in-class presentations about their experiences editing Wikipedia.

11   Week 11 (continued)

Assignments for students (due week 12)

- »   Add final touches to your Wikipedia article.
- »   Write a reflective essay on your Wikipedia contributions and editing experiences.

12   Week 12

- »   Final version of article due.

✓ **All students have handed in a reflective essay on their Wikipedia contributions and experiences.**

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