

Wikipedia Assignment

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As you know, Wikipedia is not a perfect source of information, but it is THE EASIEST so everybody uses it. This is your opportunity to contribute a bit to the world of geology students by righting one small wrong: Repairing a Wikipedia article.

Make a contribution which is *rigorous, thorough, accurate, and useful*. You will be graded on the final quality and the degree of improvement represented by your new article. There is no specific number of words you must write to complete this assignment, as each person's work will be different. You will be graded according to the degree of improvement represented between your starting and finished articles, and the quality of the final article.

Check wikipedia's list of "stubs", or articles that are too short, unfinished, or incompletely cited. A place to start:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Tectonics_stubs. Don't rewrite something huge like "plate tectonics" (although adding something to a big article might be a great contribution).

Or, pick an article that is not on the list. Pick one that is out of date or has errors. You may also check out the topics that have been requested by other writers for new articles and create one! See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Requested_articles/Natural_sciences#Environment_and_geology.

14% of Grade. Breakdown:

- 2.5% • Bring article up to a useful length at appropriate level of detail
- 2.5% • Accuracy and referencing
- 2.5% • Rigor, effective synthesis of specialized concepts, balanced and complete coverage of topic
- 2.5% • Style/formatting - organization, writing quality, images, links
- 2% • Quality feedback to 2 peers
- 2% • Revisions and response to feedback on your own article

Steps:

1. Pick a Wikipedia article that needs work.
2. Email the link of your article to Christie for approval. If it is already chosen, or not in bad enough shape to warrant a re-write, we will tell you do pick a different article. First come first claim.
3. Save or print the article.

4. Read and ponder this information:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Contributing_to_Wikipedia.
5. Get busy creating an edited article (OFFLINE). Do not do this progressively on the actual article— this would make it impossible to recognize how you have contributed since edits are anonymous.
6. On March 20, bring your original and modified articles to class for peer review.
7. After peer review day, finish editing your article - including citation list - and send that to your TA along with the original bad article you have marked up. Final is due on MARCH 27.
8. Tim will return your grade to you with a recommendation that you do one of the following: ‘A’: edit the online wikipedia article according to your new version. ‘B’: minor edits and edit online version. ‘C’: major edits, then modify the wikipedia article. If you receive C or below, do not alter the online article.
9. To learn how to edit wikipedia, start here:
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:Editing>
10. Your A or B grade is not finalized until you follow the publishing recommendation - when you do so, email your TA immediately after the changes appear, including the link to the page.

Editing, where to start

Editing wikipedia articles is simple. The WikiMedia foundation has developed a straight forward user interface to allow you to make edits to articles without knowing how to code HTML. However, you’ll need to learn a bit of Wikipedia markup. There are some basic style guidelines that you should follow when editing which mostly includes headings, subheadings, and linking. The links below will help you out.

- The Wikipedia Editing Tutorial. This is a good place to start. Gives you a basic outline of how to edit. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Tutorial>
- Pay particular attention to the Citing sources page in the tutorial.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Tutorial/Citing_sources
- Editing FAQ. Helpful guide for everything from adding pictures to using tables.
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:FAQ/Editing>
- Mark up cheat sheet. Go here first when you aren’t sure how to format something.
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:CHEAT>
- Wiki Markup. A more extensive guide to the editing language.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:Wiki_markup

Topic ideas

In addition to the links to the Tectonic Stubs and Natural Science pages above, here are some places to look for topic ideas.

- Geology Stubs. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Geology_stubs
- Geology Assesment. These rate articles and stubs that are in need of work by importance.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:WikiProject_Geology/Assessment
- Tasks and To-do list. Some of these are minor edits, like finding a photo for Lamproite. Find a task that is big enough to fit your assignment.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:WikiProject_Geology/Tasks

Happy researching!