

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY—WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

HIST 312: Wiki Project Schedule

Week 1 (Sep 22 – Sept 26)

Introduction to Wiki Assignment

Welcome to your Wikipedia assignment's course timeline. This timeline guides you through the steps you'll need to complete for your Wikipedia assignment, with links to training modules and your classmates' work spaces.

Your course has been assigned a Wikipedia Expert. You can reach them through the **Get Help** button at the top of the Wiki Edu portal page.

Resources

- [Editing Wikipedia](#) (pages 1–5)
- [Evaluating Wikipedia](#)

Tasks

- Create Wiki Account [here](#) (make sure to use an anonymized name in accordance with FERPA guidelines!)
- Join the course's Wiki Edu Portal using this [link](#)

Week 2 (Sep 27 – Oct 3)

Training: Get started on Wikipedia

- [Wikipedia policies](#)
- [Sandboxes, talk pages, and watchlists](#)

Training: Evaluate Wikipedia

- [Evaluating articles and sources](#)
- [How to Edit](#)

Questions For In-Class Discussion: [Thinking about sources and plagiarism](#)

- Blog posts and press releases are considered poor sources of reliable information. Why?
- What are some reasons you might not want to use a company's website as the main source of information about that company?
- What is the difference between a copyright violation and plagiarism?
- What are some good techniques to avoid close paraphrasing and plagiarism?
- Wikipedia privileges sources that have gone through a traditional editing and publication process above other types of sources, such as oral records. Why might this be so, and what problems might it lead to in terms of knowledge equity?
- If Wikipedia relied more heavily on other types of sources, such as oral records, how would that change the encyclopedia?
- How does Wikipedia's definition of plagiarism compare to what you've encountered as a student in higher education?

Week 3 (Oct 4 – 10)

Tasks

- Choose your Article — available articles can be found under the [Articles](#) tab (instructions on choosing an article can be found [here](#))

Resources

- [Wiki guide](#) for writing articles in History

Questions For In-Class Discussion: What is a Content Gap

Wikipedia aims to represent the "sum total of human knowledge." Despite its millions of articles, significant content gaps still persist. This is especially evident in topics related to women, minorities, and other historically marginalized populations.

Several initiatives seek to address these content gaps, such as **WikiProject: Women in Red** and **Art+Feminism**.

- Wikipedians often talk about "content gaps." What do you think a content gap is, and what are some possible ways to identify them?
- What are some reasons that a content gap might arise? What are some of the consequences of content gaps?

- What are some ways to remedy them?
- What is the relationship between content gaps and Wikipedia's "notability" and "neutrality" policies? When do these issues conflict? When do they complement one another? Explain.
- If "anyone" can edit Wikipedia, does it matter who "does" edit Wikipedia?
- What does it mean to be "unbiased" on Wikipedia? How is that different, or similar, to your own definition of "bias"? In your discussion be sure to address how bias and notability affect each other.
- What is the relationship between Wikipedia's sourcing policies and content gaps?

Weeks 4 – 5 (Oct 11 – 17, 18 – 24)

Tasks

- Entry Research!

Resources

- Try searching your topic in these online databases of primary sources:
 - [Perseus Project](#) (also has a great encyclopedia and image library)
 - [Lacus Curtius](#) (also has a great encyclopedia)
 - [Wikisource](#)
- Here are some other helpful secondary source links:
 - [Diotima](#) (has an excellent online image resource section)
 - [Classics Williams, Online Resources](#)
 - [Stoa](#)
- [Harvard](#) has a great overview of image copyright that includes links to popular databases of Public Domain and Creative Commons images (including [Wikimedia Commons](#) and [Flickr](#)—especially [Dan Diffendale's Flickr](#) page). The [Metropolitan Museum](#), for example, has many images that are Open Access. You can find more collections links listed in the "Ancient Life in Objects" assignment on Canvas (be sure to check the copyright on any collection you look at!).

Week 6 (Oct 25 – 31)

Training: Start Drafting your Contributions

- [Contributing images and media files](#)
- [Plagiarism](#)
- [Drafting in the Sandbox](#)

Resources

- [Editing Wikipedia](#) (pages 7–9)
- For more information on Plagiarism: [How Plagiarism is Different on Wikipedia](#)

Questions For In-Class Discussion: Thinking about Wikipedia

- What do you think of Wikipedia's definition of "neutrality"?
- What are the impacts and limits of Wikipedia as a source of information?
- On Wikipedia, all material must be attributable to reliable, published sources. What kinds of sources does this exclude and how might these policies affect coverage of historically underrepresented populations? How might Wikipedia change if it allowed the use of non-published sources, such as oral traditions and histories?
- Does it matter who writes Wikipedia? If so, why?
- How does Wikipedia define expertise and what it means to be an expert? How does this compare to more traditional definitions of expertise?

Week 7 (Nov 1 – 7)

Tasks

- Finish Drafting Contribution in your Sandbox

Week 8 (Nov 8 – 14)

Tasks

- Submit Sandbox article draft for peer review

- To “submit”, go to the Canvas Assignment to confirm that your article draft is ready to review by submitting the sandbox URL

Week 9 (Nov 15 – 21)

Tasks

- Review your two assigned articles (you can find the articles you will review under “My Articles”)
 - Peer Review will follow [this](#) Guiding Framework

Week 10 (Nov 22–28)

Tasks

- Consider their suggestions, decide whether it makes your work more accurate and complete, and edit your draft to make those changes.
- Continue [improving your article](#)
 - Now's the time to revisit your text and refine your work. You may do more research and find missing information; rewrite the lead section to represent all major points; reorganize the text to communicate the information better; or add images and other media.
- Polish your Work
 - Continue to expand and improve your work, and format your article to match Wikipedia's tone and standards. Remember to contact your Wikipedia Expert at any time if you need further help!
- Begin moving your work out of the sandbox to the main article
 - Now that you've improved your draft based on others' feedback, it's time to move your work live - to the "mainpage."

Training

- [Moving work out of the sandbox](#)

Resources

- [Editing Wikipedia](#) (pages 12 and 14)

*Reach out to your Wikipedia Expert if you have any questions.

Week 11 (Nov 29–Dec 5)

Tasks

- Final week to develop your article!

Resource

- Read [Editing Wikipedia](#) page 15 to review a final check-list before completing your assignment.

Week 12 (Dec 6–11)

Tasks

- Submit article!
 - To “submit”, go to the Canvas Assignment to confirm that your article is ready to review by submitting the article URL
- Be sure to complete the final post-project assignments
 - Metacognition reflection
 - Research proposal