

PROJECT 1 *Wikipedia* Contribution

Goal:

A contribution of no less than 1,000 words per student to the *Wikipedia* project.

Details:

Wikipedia (http://en.Wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page) is a multilingual, international, online encyclopedia that can be edited in real time by anyone with access to it. *Wikipedia* comprises vastly more topics, and more specialized articles, than any print encyclopedia due to its open editing policy and mutable electronic format. For this project, each student is expected to contribute at least 1,000 words to *Wikipedia*. Topic choice is completely wide open, although students will find it difficult to add meaningful substance to articles that cover popular topics. A student's word count may be increased by adding new articles, supplementing existing articles, copy editing, translating, adjusting articles to fit style guidelines, revising an article to ensure a neutral perspective, etc.

Stages to Completion:

- Class introduction to *Wikipedia*
- Compare *Wikipedia* to print encyclopedias, including their different mechanisms for making truth
- Register *Wikipedia* accounts and complete *Wikipedia* tutorial
- Generate contribution ideas
- Analyze genre conventions
- Form rubric
- Progress check
- Share contributions with class
- Final word count total

Relevant Dates (subject to change):

Feb. 7 & 9 - Progress check

Mar. 6 - Share contributions with class

Mar. 10 - Final word count total

Grading:

The grade for this project is based upon a student's substantive contribution to an evolving body of knowledge in keeping with its generic conventions. The class rubric will be generated through student/instructor collaboration, and will incorporate students' analyses of genre. Contributions to *Wikipedia* will be tracked through a student's *Wikipedia* account. Because of the open, collaborative native of *Wikipedia*, a student's work very likely will be shaped by many other people. Students will not be penalized for alterations introduced by others.

Contact:

As always, discussion is encouraged. Post questions, comments, or other information on the class blog at <http://joe.english.purdue.edu/sp06/tirrell2/blog>. You are also encouraged to bring questions to your weekly individual conferences. I am available during office hours on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:30-10:30 am. If you are unavailable during these times, you may set up an appointment with me. I can be contacted most readily through my email address: jtirrell@purdue.edu.