WIKIPEDIA PROJECT

ASSIGNMENT OVERVIEW

THIS PROJECT IS DUE ON BLAZEVIEW BY 11:59 PM ON NOVEMBER 21

Each of you will be placed in a group and assigned a text for your Wikipedia Project this semester. Your group will be responsible for creating and/or expanding an article on Wikipedia about your assigned text. Doing so will help you to engage more deeply with the text, practice primary source analysis, and think through key issues and themes from the course. You will also learn how to work collaboratively with your peers, how to frame your academic writing for the public, and how to make your research findings accessible to a non-expert audience. Over the course of roughly twelve weeks, you should develop a new sense of digital literacy and research, while also contributing to a growing body of public knowledge.

TIMELINE AND TASKS FOR THE WIKIPEDIA PROJECT

WEEK 1

Enroll in our course on the Wiki Education platform. Once you are enrolled, I will assign you to your groups and you will be free to explore the platform and become acquainted with your peers. Please note that our course includes an embedded librarian and a Wikipedia expert. Please feel free to reach out to these resources throughout the semester; they will be helping to provide you with support.

WEEK 2

You will need to review two modules on Wiki Education, which will introduce you to "Editing Wikipedia" and "Evaluating Wikipedia." There will be a brief assignment online to familiarize you with Wikipedia policies, as well as an introduction to sandboxes, talk pages, and watchlists.

WEEK 3

You will need to review two modules on Wiki Education, which will introduce you to "Evaluating Articles and Sources" and "How to Edit." There will be a brief assignment online that asks you to evaluate an existing article on Wikipedia. We will discuss this assignment in more detail in class.

WEEK 4

You will need to complete one assignment this week as a group. Please review the module about how to "Find Your Sources" and the online guides that the embedded librarian has created to assist you with your assigned texts. You will be asked to share your found sources in class this week.

WEEK 5

You will need to review one module on Wiki Education, which teaches you about "Adding Citations." There will be a brief assignment online asking you to add citations to an existing article. This task should prepare you to begin adding citations to your assigned article as well.

WEEK 6

You will need to review two modules on Wiki Education, which will introduce you to "Drafting as a Group" and provide a more sophisticated look at "Editing Wikipedia." Your assignment will then be to begin drafting your article; every member needs to make a contribution by the end of the week.

WEEK 7

Each member of your group will need to complete one assignment this week, which is to review article drafts from two other groups in this class. A rubric for reviewing these articles is already available to you on the Wiki Education platform, and should be completed by the end of the week.

WEEK 8

This week you will need to complete one assignment as a group, which is to review and respond to last week's feedback. In addition to feedback from students, you may also begin to see feedback from other Wikipedians. As a group, you will need to consider their suggestions, decide whether it makes your work more accurate and complete, and edit your draft to make those changes.

WEEK 9

This week you should begin moving your work to the Wikipedia "mainspace" from your sandbox. Before you do this, you should review one module on Wiki Education, which should help you with "Moving Group Work Live." At this point your work will be public and available for more feedback.

WEEK 10

You will need to review one module on Wiki Education, which will introduce to "Contributing Images and Media Files." Your primary assignment for this week will be to continue improving your article. You may do more research to find missing information, you may need to rewrite the lead section to represent all of your major points, you may need to reorganize the article to communicate your information better, and you may want to add images or other media to your article.

WEEK 11

This week, you should continue to expand and improve your work, and format your article to match Wikipedia's tone and standards. Please remember to contact your Wikipedia expert at any time if you need further help. This is the final week to develop your article before it is graded.

WEEK 12

You will need to review one module on Wiki Education this week, which will provide you with a "Final Checklist" before your group completes the project. When you have completed everything on the checklist and confirmed with your group members that your article is ready to be graded, please send me an email (only one email per group is necessary) so that I can begin the process of grading.

WEEK 13

With the article now online or otherwise available for grading, please review the "Reflective Essay" module on Wiki Education and submit your individual reflections on this process to BlazeVIEW.

WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?

While humanities courses are essential to developing critical thinking, students sometimes struggle to see the "real-world" applicability of their efforts. By giving you a multimodal writing assignment that will be visible to people outside of class, I will invite you to see your writing and research as having "real-world" impact. Even as the emphasis in this course is on nineteenth-century American literature, this assignment will provide you with twenty-first century skills—including media literacy, writing and research development, and critical thinking. In addition, you will be helping to fill content gaps on Wikipedia as a class. In the process of researching your topic, you will navigate a complex and contentious media landscape, and will learn how to critique a source and discern its reliability. Moreover, as you contribute well-cited, well-founded information, you will be helping to combat "fake news" on the internet. In other words, this Wikipedia project should be transformative; as you begin to master the course content, you will also be building skills (and portfolio materials) for your academic and professional lives.