

**When students shape the discipline:
Using Wikipedia to increase student engagement and enhance learning**

Sample structure for organizing a course around an Art+Feminism Wikipedia Edit-a-thon

Cis and trans women are underrepresented on Wikipedia, both as subjects and as editors. Working alone or in pairs, our class will help address this imbalance by creating Wikipedia entries for woman artists. Each person/pair will research and write their own entry of approximately 1000 words. This assignment will be broken down into steps to be completed over the course of the term:

1. Selection of topic and article rationale (5%), due in week 3
2. Artist bio/article introduction (10%), due in week 6
3. Annotated bibliography and research narrative (20%), due in week 8
4. Draft article and peer review (5%), due in week 10
5. Final article (20%), due in week 11

Phase one...

Instructions/discussion:

- Feminism and the writing of art history - who is written about, why, and how...

In-class activities:

- Analyzing a Wikipedia article as a class

Assignments/homework:

- Create a Wikipedia account
- Complete basic Wikipedia training

Phase two...

Instructions/discussion:

- Introduction to writing for Wikipedia: writing from a neutral point of view (avoiding gendered language), writing for a general audience, standards (using reliable sources and notability)
- Anatomy of a Wikipedia page

In-class activities:

- Students work on editing their userpage
- Students copy and paste a section from an existing article discussed in class into their sandbox, and attempt to reverse engineer the formatting (adding references, etc.)

Assignments/homework:

- Selection of topic and article rationale: Students should indicate how their subject meets Wikipedia's guidelines for notability
- Edit Wikipedia: Students must make 10 edits before they can submit a full article to Wikipedia. Assign edits to existing articles throughout the semester. This can be framed as a way to study for tests or quizzes—students should edit the pages of artists studied in class, relying upon their course notes or readings.

Phase three...

Instructions/discussion:

- Extended introduction to library resources: interlibrary loan, bound journals, microfiche, historical periodicals, and evaluating online resources
- Organizing a Wikipedia edit-a-thon: Students volunteer for various roles, including greeters, editing coaches, reference desk, and general support

In-class activities:

- Evaluating online sources: have students work in small groups to evaluate a couple of online sources, rating them for their appropriateness for research
- Students begin a draft of their article in their Wikipedia namespace/sandbox

Assignments/homework:

- Artist bio/article introduction: This can be uploaded in-class and/or at the public edit-a-thon, establishing an initial page for the topic
- Annotated bibliography and research narrative

Phase four...

Instructions/discussion

- Copyright/image rights

In-class activities:

- Practice using Wikimedia Commons: Have students upload an image to the Commons and/or add an image to their Wikipedia article (such as an image of the artist or an example of their work)
- Peer review: Students bring a hardcopy draft of their article to class and circulate for peer review

Assignments/homework:

- Public edit-a-thon: Students host an edit-a-thon for the university and local communities
- Draft article and peer review

Phase five...

Instructions/discussion

- Review steps for uploading an article, questions/troubleshooting

In-class activities:

- Classroom edit-a-thon: Students upload the final draft of their article
- Debrief: Students can respond in writing to a series of prompts (What challenges did you face in writing your article? How has your article been edited or altered since you uploaded it? Has this experience changed the way you view Wikipedia? Art history? Will you continue to edit Wikipedia after class ends? etc.) or engage in a structured discussion (or both)

Assignments/homework:

- Final article

RESOURCES

Art + Feminism, <http://www.artandfeminism.org>

- Download the organizer's kit, guides for editing Wikipedia, and register your edit-a-thon

Wikimedia Foundation, <https://wikimediafoundation.org/participate/>

- Follow a training module for organizing an edit-a-thon, apply for a grant to support your edit-a-thon

Canadian Women Artists History Initiative, <https://cwahi.concordia.ca>

- Access the artist database

WikiProject on Women Artists, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:WikiProject_Women_artists

- Review a list of stub articles needing expansion