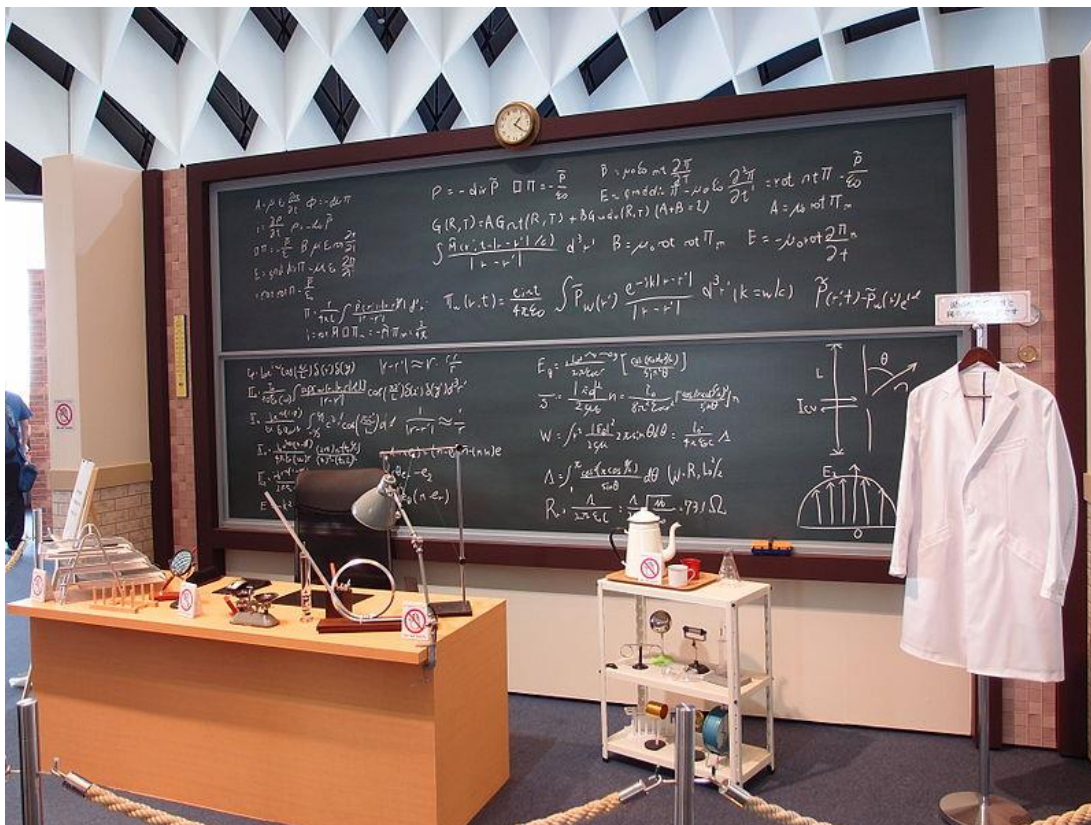




A Guide to Writing Articles about Awards Winning Scientists

The Wikimedia Israel Chapter

Written for the Article Creating by Gifted Students project
which is part of a collaboration between Wikimedia Israel
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By Guilhem Vellut (Fuji TV Building @ Odaiba) [CC BY 2.0], [via Wikimedia commons](#)

Dear students,

Here is a written manual that will guide you through the writing of articles about scientists who have won leading prizes.

The guide is divided into four parts:

- A. **How to write an article in 10 steps** - Recommended work stages.
- B. **How to select information sources** - Examples of reliable sources of information that you might find useful.
- C. **How to save the details of information sources** - A breakdown of the data you are meant to specify and indicate, for each information source you utilize.
- D. **How to design the article** - Explanation about the format of Wikipedia articles and tips for writing articles about scientists

Note: the guide will accompany you in the writing of the text outside of Wikipedia, using Word or Docs documents. You will be equipped with the Wikipedia editing tools separately, through a workshop that will take place after you finish writing the texts.

This guide was written especially for you. We hope you will find it useful, and enjoy your designated assignment.

And who knows? Maybe in a few years students will be writing an article about a scientific research of yours...

Sincerely yours,

The Wikimedia Israel Chapter

Part A: how to write an article in ten steps

Here is a breakdown of the recommended work stages for writing an article about a scientist:

1. **Locating information resources:** find at least three reliable and relevant information sources (see examples below - Part B). You can utilize material found on the Internet or in books and articles that can be found in libraries.
2. **Locating media files:** when possible, try to find relevant media files on the Internet: for example, pictures of the scientist in Wikipedia articles in other languages or in Wikimedia Commons and videos featuring lectures of or about the scientist. Save the Web Address of each file.
3. **Reading and summarizing:** read the information in the sources you have found and summarize the relevant parts. Next to each part of your summary, specify the source information it is based on. Remember to specify full data of the source (see more information below – Part C).
4. **Designing the layout:** based on the information collected, design the layout of the article (see more information below – Part D). Note: be sure to compose suitable titles for each of the article's sections.



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5. **Writing:** create a Word or Docs document and write the full article (according to the format you designed and based on the information collected). Please note:
 - You should write an article at a length of 300-500 words.
 - Use the Arial font, size 11.5, and 1.5 line spacing. Maintain margins at conventional widths.
 - Try to create a text that can be understood by any Hebrew reading person aged 12 and over.
 - Do not copy texts!
 - During the writing process, indicate in footnotes the full details of the information sources you base your text on (in order to create a footnote press the following keys on your keyboard: CTRL + Alt + f).
 - Underline words which you will want to link to other articles in Wikipedia.
 - If you have found relevant media files online (pictures and videos), insert at the end of the document a brief explanation about them, as well as their Web address.

6. **Proofreading:** once the article is written, pass the document you created on to someone close to you and trustworthy, and ask them to review it and make suggestions, corrections, and comments. After receiving the comments, correct the document as you see fit.

7. **Initial submittal:** send the document by _____ (date), to the team leading your educational program, as the following e-mail address _____. Wait until you receive it back with comments and suggestions for changes.

8. **Correcting:** make changes based on comments you received.

9. **Final submittal:** congratulations, you now have a finished article! Send the final result to the team leading your educational program, at the following e-mail address _____ by the following date _____.

10. **Uploading to Wikipedia:** Wikimedia Israel representatives will instruct you later on, on how to upload the article to Wikipedia and how to ensure that the use of the files you selected does not violate copyright laws.



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Please note: Through your writing process, it is recommended to make use of existing articles that were written by leading scientists. Find such articles which you consider to be well written, and learn from them how to best formulate and organize your article.

Here are examples of such articles that are at a length similar to that expected of you:

[Ada Yonath](#), [Peter Agre](#), [Rosalyn Sussman Yalow](#), [Aage Bohr](#)

Part B: how to select information sources

You must select reliable information sources. Here are examples of several types of such sources:

1. Official websites of the chief scientist or of his/her scientist groups.
2. Websites of worldwide well-known and respected research organizations such as universities or research institutes.
3. Websites dedicated to the awards and prizes granted to leading scientists such as the [Nobel Foundation](#) website.
4. Books and articles by experts (especially those written by the scientist him/herself).
5. Scientific journals like [Science](#), and their websites.
6. Interviews with the scientists and information about their life and work from general newspapers, like the [New York Times](#)
7. Encyclopedias, printed and online like [Encyclopædia Britannica](#).
8. Web-based databases that are compiled by experts, like [NNDB](#) (A site with details about the lives of prominent public figures).

** Note: in the original guide more sources are listed that are written in the Hebrew language.*

Part C: how to save the details of information sources

In order to indicate in your article the sources of information you based your article upon, you must register their details in accordance with the following breakdown:

- **For a page from a Website:** copy the page address and point out, in a few words, what appears on the page, the name of the site and, if possible, also the name of the author.
- **For a book:** specify the title of the book, the full name of the author, name of publisher, year of publication and the page numbers in which the information you used appears.
- **For an article or news report:** specify the title of the article, the full name of the author, name of the journal or newspaper, publication date, and page numbers (where applicable) in which the information you used appears.

When you upload the articles to Wikipedia, the Wikimedia Israel representatives will instruct you on how to integrate the details of information sources into the articles you created.



By NIAID (Study of Human Immune Response to HIV) [CC BY 2.0], [via Wikimedia Commons](#)

Part 4: how to design your article

Wikipedia articles consist of four sections:

(1) Introduction or Lead Section, (2) Table of Contents, (3), Content, (4) Sources sections

Here is a detailed breakdown of the content included in each of these parts:

(1) Introduction Section

The introduction section presents concise information about the subject on which the article is written. Its purpose is to provide the reader with a general idea of the topic. If readers do not need extensive information they might settle for this section and not read the rest of the article.

Introduction section about the scientist would include the following:

- Full name - in bold (if originates in another language, include in brackets the name in original language)
- Year of birth (if scientist is deceased, year of death as well)
- Discipline
- Major discoveries
- Prominent Awards, including the winning year, and co-awarded persons (if any)
- Additional key information (if any)

(2) Table of Contents

This section details the titles of the sections of the article that are to follow.

(3) Content of the Article

The content section features comprehensive information about the subject matter of the article. The content text is usually divided into sections according to topics. If necessary, subdivision can also be created within the sections.

For example, within an article about a scientist who won an important prize you can create the following two sections:

Section 1 - CV:

Here we would indicate scientist's nationality and origin, year and place of birth, basic information about the family she/he grew up in (e.g. family members' names and professions of parents), basic information about childhood and youth, primary residences, education, scholarships won, prominent positions that the scientist held,

published books and articles, and if he/she started a family, information about their family (such as name and occupation of spouse and number of children).

When writing the CV, we would highlight the scientist's research career.

This section can be divided into sub-sections. For example, "childhood and youth", "research, career awards and honors", "family".

Section 2 - the study that awarded the scientist her/his prize:

Here we write about the situation in the field prior to the scientist's study, the discovery and its significance, how the research was conducted, (what were the objects studied, accessories and instruments used, the length of time and the location of study, number of people involved in it). If necessary, you can briefly elaborate on key concepts related to the study.

A few additional notes relevant to the writing of article's content:

- If the scientist is prominent in another area that is not related to research, we would add an additional section related to that area. For example, a section titled "Writing children's books" or "Political activities".
- In the content section, it is recommended (but not required) to also refer to the following topics: what motivated the scientist to choose their route; her/his sources of inspiration; the difficulties and challenges encountered along the way.
- If you find any interesting quotes by the scientist, it is recommended to incorporate them into the content sections.



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(4) Sources sections

At the end of the article there are three main sections that are meant to provide reader with information sources concerning the subject matter of the article:

1. **External links:** this section contains a list of relevant Web pages from sites that aren't Wikipedia. This section is optional, but can contribute to your article.
2. **Further reading:** this section contains a list of sources in which the reader can find additional information about the topic of the article. Here you can insert links to Web pages along with titles of books and articles that are not available on line. This section is also optional, but can contribute to your article.
3. **Footnotes:** here, the references you integrated throughout the content section of the article will be listed, with citation information on the information sources you based your article upon. This section is mandatory.

Wishing you success, achievements, and enjoyment!
The Wikimedia Israel Chapter



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