# The 7 Biggest Mistakes the Wikipedia Education Program's Made — and What We've Learned From Them

LiAnna Davis Wiki Education Foundation



#### Mistake #1:

### Not taking student abilities into account.



#### Lesson #1:

# Investigate student writing skill level prior to working with a new discipline.



#### Mistake #2:

## Allowing instructors to engage only via email/ Google Docs.



#### Lesson #2:

## Ensure each instructor has a course page.



#### Lesson #2:

#### Ensure each instructor has a course page.

Summary		[collapse]
Institution	Rice University	
Term	Spring 2014	
Start	6 January 2014	
End	29 June 2014	
Student count	20	
Status	Current	
Instructors	Vignespassy (talk I contribs I sandboxes)	
Online volunteers	Jami (Wiki Ed) (talk I contribs I sandboxes)	
Campus volunteers	JoyceChou (talk I contribs I sandboxes)    Twoods158 (talk I contribs I sandboxes)	

Student	Articles	Reviewers
Alison.moscoso (talk I contribs I sandboxes)		
Allisonshields (talk I contribs I sandboxes)	Global perceptions of autism	Add yourself as reviewer
LWang1991 (talk I contribs I sandboxes)	Preventive healthcare	Add yourself as reviewer
		Jpoles1 (talk I contribs)
Jak8 (talk I contribs I sandboxes)	HIV/AIDS in Malawi	Brookeethleen (talk I contribs)
		Add yourself as reviewer
		Brodgers15 (talk I contribs)
Sessama7 (talk I contribs I sandboxes)	Racism in France	Dmillar23 (talk I contribs)



#### Mistake #3:

## Working with class of 300+ students.



#### Lesson #3:

### Keep class size under around 30 students.



#### Mistake #4:

## Giving instructor too much deference in assignment design.



#### Lesson #4:

# Ensure the assignment the instructor is giving works for Wikipedia.



#### Mistake #5:

## Asking students to contribute in language they're not fluent in.



#### Lesson #5:

Have students translate from language they're studying to language they're fluent in.



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Have students translate from language they're studying to language they're fluent in.

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#### Mistake #6:

### Students plagiarize. A lot.



#### Lesson #6:

# Stress the importance of original content on Wikipedia and check their work.



#### Mistake #7:

## Not planning for problems.



#### Lesson #7:

## Have a plan to deal with exigencies.



#### Mistakes

- 1. Not taking student abilities into account.
- 2. Allowing instructors to engage only via email/Google Docs.
- 3. Working with class of 300+ students.
- 4. Giving instructors too much deference in assignment design.
- 5. Asking students to contribute in language they're not fluent in.
- 6. Students plagiarize. A lot.
- 7. Not planning for problems.



#### Lessons Learned

- 1. Investigate student writing skill level.
- 2. Ensure each instructor has a course page.
- 3. Keep class size under 30 students.
- 4. Ensure the assignment works for Wikipedia.
- 5. Have students translate from language they're studying to the language they're fluent in.
- 6. Stress the importance of original content on Wikipedia and check their work.
- 7. Have a plan to deal with exigencies.



#### Your questions!

Or email me: <u>lianna@wikiedu.org</u>

