

# INTEGRATING WIKIPEDIA INTO THE CLASSROOM



## THINKING ABOUT WIKIPEDIA AS MORE THAN A REFERENCE

Wikipedia does not meet the standards necessary to be used as a source in academic writing, however, it is increasingly important as a reference material for the public, with over 3.5 millions articles in English, 16 million articles in all it's languages and a readership of over 400 million unique visitors every month. However, at universities, we have the opportunity to integrate Wikipedia into our academic lives in a variety

of ways other than as a reference. Perhaps most importantly, we can integrate Wikipedia article writing into classroom assignments. Unlike traditional literature survey or essay writing assignments, Wikipedia article writing assignments offer some unique advantages:

- Wikipedia articles don't get thrown away at the end of the semester, like papers, instead they educate readers throughout the world
- Student write for a public audience, thus have to learn how to communicate complex subjects for lay readers
- Students participate in collaborative writing with both fellow students and volunteers
- Students participate in a new set of academic standards unique to Wikipedia, teaching them how to use their research and writing skills in a new community with new means of knowledge communication

If you are interested in participating, Wikimedia UK will train Campus Ambassadors to guide instructors in writing and facilitating the assignment and help teach classes about Wikipedia editing. See the following links for more information:

Courses using Wikipedia assignments: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WP:Ambassadors/Courses>

Sample Assignment syllabus: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WP:Ambassadors/Syllabus>

Wikipedia Ambassadors: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WP:Ambassadors>

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INTERESTED OR WANT  
TO FIND OUT MORE?

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