

Wikipedia Assignment

As you know, Wikipedia is not a perfect source of information, but it is THE EASIEST so everybody uses it. This is your opportunity to contribute a bit to the world of geology students by righting one small wrong: Repairing a Wikipedia article.

Steps:

1. Pick a Wikipedia article that needs work.
2. Email the link of your article to Ryan Libbey (TA in charge of this assignment). If it is already chosen, or he deems it is not in bad enough shape to warrant a re-write, he will tell you do pick a different article. First come first claim.
3. Save or print the article. Mark it up (either with a red pen or using digital comments/edits e.g. in Adobe Acrobat).
4. Read and ponder this information:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Contributing_to_Wikipedia.
5. Get busy creating an edited article (OFFLINE). Do not do this progressively on the actual article– this would make it impossible for your TA to recognize how you have contributed since edits are anonymous.
6. On February 27, bring your original and modified articles to class for peer review.
7. After peer review day, finish editing your article - including citation list - and send that to your TA along with the original bad article you have marked up. FEBRUARY 29.
8. Your TA will return your grade to you with a recommendation that you do one of the following: ‘4’: edit the online wikipedia article according to your new version. ‘3’: minor edits and edit online version. ‘2’: major edits, then modify the wikipedia article, or ‘0’ reject. If you receive 2 or 0, DO NOT MODIFY THE WIKIPEDIA ARTICLE ONLINE. You may then choose to use one of your chances to resubmit within a week and get a higher grade. DUE DATE: approved and uploaded by March 5.
9. To learn how to edit wikipedia, start here: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:Editing>
10. Your grade is not finalized until you follow the publishing recommendation - when you do so, email your TA immediately after the changes appear, including the link to the page.

Some advice:

- You can make things easy on yourself by picking one related to the topics you are researching for your paper. You can make things more interesting for yourself by picking something totally different!
- Check wikipedia’s list of “stubs”, or articles that are too short, unfinished, or incompletely cited. A place to start: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Tectonics_stubs.
- Or, pick an article that is not on the list. Pick one that is out of date or has errors. You may also check out the topics that have been requested by other writers for new articles and create one! See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Requested_articles/Natural_sciences#Environment_and_geology.

- Don't rewrite something huge like "plate tectonics" (although adding something to a big article might be a great contribution, and the part of the "plate tectonics" article dealing with slab pull is pretty weak, as is the separate article about slab pull).
- Make a contribution which is *rigorous, thorough, accurate, and useful*. There is no "word count" or other boxes to check. I expect your contribution to take you about 4-6 hours, but it could be more or less depending on your choice of topic and degree of previous knowledge. You will be graded on the final quality and the degree of improvement represented by your new article. There is no specific number of words you must write to complete this assignment, as each person's work will be different. You will be graded according to the degree of improvement represented between your starting and finished articles, and the quality of the final article.