An Introduction to Writing on Wikipedia

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Creating a Wikipedia account

Click 'Create account' in the top right corner

Keep in mind that all of your Wikipedia edits will be public, so you may want to create an **anonymous** username.

Fill out all fields and click 'Create your account'.

Using the sandbox

The sandbox is a space where you can test without affecting actual articles. For example, if you want to create your own article, you can create it in the sandbox, then publish it. The sandbox can be accessed —after logging in—in the top-right corner of the page. Edit it as you would any other article (see #3).

Editing an article

While logged in and on the page you want to edit, select 'Edit' in the top-right corner of the page.

You will be prompted to choose to either start editing (source editing) or go to visual mode—visual mode resembles a finished Wikipedia page. Source editing is more like coding. **This tutorial uses visual mode.**


**Note:** If you’re uncertain of how to do something in visual mode, copy the code from another page’s source and paste it into the source of the page you’re editing (and edit the content). Templates are also a good place to look.
Adding an in-text citation

Wikipedia requires citations from reliable sources for all material that may be challenged.

Click where on the page you would like the citation to go, then click the ‘Cite’ button.

Choose the type of reference you are citing.  Fill in the fields you can.

The reference should automatically populate in the reference list in the order cited.
Creating new sections

Click on the page where you would like a new section to go. Then click the Paragraph button and select 'Heading'.

Type 'New Section Title' e.g. ‘External Links’, ‘Further Reading’, etc.

Note: To add the references you've already cited to a new References section, insert a 'References list' by clicking Insert > References list.
Adding hyperlinks

Hyperlinks can be added to External links or Further reading sections to allow readers to reference outside sources.

1. Create a bulleted list in the External link / further reading section.

External links are generally for websites, further reading for books.

External links should consists of a short, hyperlinked description and the source.

Example:

- "Timeline: WPC Yvonne Fletcher" at BBC News, 25 March 2004
- "WPC Yvonne Fletcher" at the Police Memorial Trust
- "Yvonne Fletcher" at The Guardian
2. To link to an external page, highlight what you want to link (the word or phrase).

3. Use the link function in the toolbar and select ‘External Link’, then copy in the URL. Do the same for the source.

For further reading entries you should use a full citation.

Use the ‘Cite book’ template to do this; do not follow the instructions for in-line citations.
Adding links to other Wikipedia articles

Certain phrases within a Wikipedia article can be linked to other Wikipedia pages to give readers further context.

1. Highlight what you would like to link.
2. Click the ‘Link’ button in the page’s menu.
3. Search for the page, select it, then click ‘Done’.
Creating an infobox

Infoboxes at the start of an article provide important facts and statistics that are comparable to related articles (e.g. name, date of birth)

1. To create an infobox for a person, put your mouse focus at the beginning of the article.
2. Click the Template Button

3. Search for and select ‘infobox person’. Click ‘Add template’.

4. Add as much information as you can (click Add more information to see other fields), then click ‘Insert’.

Many infobox templates also exist for subject types other than people.

Adding categories to pages

Categories group together pages on similar subjects, which helps readers navigate a subject area and find related articles.

1. Click ‘Page options’ at the top right of the page.
2. Select 'Categories'.

3. Add categories using the ‘Add a category’ field (which will search Wikipedia’s categories)

4. Click ‘Apply changes’ when finished.

The categories you added will appear at the bottom of the page.

10. Using talk pages

Every page has a talk page which can be accessed on the top-left of every page. Talk pages allow editors to discuss changes to an article.
To add to a talk page, click ‘New section’ on the top-right. This will create a new section with a heading.

**Note**: There is no visual view for talk pages, only source view.

You can use the ‘New Section’ option to make comments, pose questions, suggest future work, etc. on talk pages.

Within the talk page, you can also link the article to the WikiProject 'Women's History.' This will make it so the article appears in the WikiProject Women’s History page as an article that needs work. Other WikiProjects may be relevant. Look at similar articles for other ideas.

To do this, copy in the following source code

```wikipedia
{{WPBS |1=
{{WikiProject Women's History |class=Insert here | importance=Insert here}}
}}
```

You need to fill out the two parameters: class and importance.

View the WikiProject’s guidelines for the parameters: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:WikiProject_Women%27s_History/Aessment
Creating a redirect

Redirects allow a page to be reached under multiple titles, which aids in user navigation.

For example, if users search Agnes Turnbull, they will be redirected from that page to the article Agnes Sligh Turnbull.


2. Type in the title of the page you want users to be redirected from.

3. Follow the instructions on the page.

Note: This gets more complicated when someone has a common name (which multiple articles may share). In that case you would add the individual to a disambiguation page. For example, search Elizabeth Allen.