Integrating Wikipedia into the Classroom: An Innovative Approach to Term Papers

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Teaching & Learning Fair - Online Learning (Other)  Abstract 2021-072
Teaching & Learning Fair Presentation  Mode: Synchronous
Session: Teaching & Learning Fair Session 1  Thursday June 3, 2021, 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM

Term papers are an over-used teaching modality and a poor model of scholarship that typically have minimal bearing on the real world (Guess, 2007). A better alternative is developing Wikipedia articles on course-relevant topics, empowering students to have a visible positive impact. Wikipedia articles are inherently collaborative and encourage a process of continual editing and improvement. In partnership with WikiEDU, this project incorporates training modules and exercises both specific to Wikipedia and applicable to scholarly writing (e.g., evaluating sources, referencing, plagiarism, neutral tone, effective communication). Assignment novelty supports student engagement throughout the semester. This assignment is well-suited to remote delivery.