

Imagine a world in which every single person on the planet is given free access to the sum of all human knowledge. That's what we're doing.

-Jimmy Wales, Wikipedia co-founder (2004)



WHAT IS WIKIPEDIA?

- o 5th most popular website in the world
 - Freely licensed, crowdsourced encyclopedia
 - · Founded in 2001 by Jimmy Wales and Larry Sanger
- o Anyone can edit...yes, anyone
- Science topics still need a lot of work & experts
 - · Biophysics is rated C-class
- Instant audience!
 - Example: Nucleosome gets 17,000-18,000 views per month, most topics get at least a few hundred

SIGN UP!

- Go to http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special:CreateAccount
- You can work under your real name or a pseudonym
- ${\color{blue} \bullet}$ Find something to work on check to-do list on WikiProject Biophysics
 - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ Wikipedia:WikiProject Biophysics

TASKS YOU CAN DO

- o Copyedit or clarify the prose in an article
- o Add images
- o Add links to other relevant articles on the site
 - [[Article title]]
- o Create a new Wikipedia article (more later)
- Add information to an article (more later)

PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE

- o Syntax can be hard to get right
 - Really detailed help: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:Wikimarkup
- o Copy&paste markup from a place that works!
- Edit (then cancel) gives you access to article markup
- o Sandbox http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Sandbox
 - Test anything you want there, rather than in an article

ADD INFORMATION TO AN ARTICLE

- o Click on the "Edit" button
 - · For a section, or the whole article
 - · Always "Show preview" before you save!
- Cite your sources for everything in the Wikipedia article
 - Type <ref> before and </ref> after
 - Copy/paste citation from a journal or type it out, copy format from a ref in the article, or look at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:Citations for advanced

CONTRIBUTE USEFUL IMAGES

- o Best place to upload is Wikimedia Commons
 - · http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/
 - · Your login will work here also
 - Then usable on any wiki project; for WP article, type [[Image:filename|thumb|caption]]
- o Photos, diagrams, movies high quality
- $\bullet\,$ Need open license: attribution-only, share-alike, or public domain
- Give description, source, categories (start typing a plausible category & see what auto-completes)
- o Commons welcome page links good instructions

START A NEW ARTICLE

- o Click on a red link or type a name into search bar
- o Is it notable?
 - Notability guidelines at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ WP:GNG
 - In a nutshell: is there significant coverage in secondary sources (textbooks, news articles)?
 - For scientists: major award, developing a new technique, significant discovery
- o Add categories ([[Category:Foobar]])
- o Sandbox it in a private workspace
 - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special:MyPage/sandbox

THE 5 PILLARS OF WIKIPEDIA

- Wikipedia is an encyclopedia: so no original research (NOR)
- Neutral point of view (NPOV): so cite verifiable (V), authoritative, diverse sources
- ${\color{blue} \circ}$ Free content for anyone to edit or access: so open licenses (gfdl, cc-by, cc-by-sa, public)
- Code of conduct: be polite and assume good faith (AGF)
- o No firm rules: so Be Bold

NEUTRAL POINT OF VIEW

- One of the core policies (5 Pillars)
- o Applies to everything no essays
- o Encyclopedic tone
- ${\color{blue} \bullet}$ No appearance of bias, even-handed treatment of the subject
- Important to keep Wikipedia from becoming a soapbox
- Abbreviated "NPOV", thrown around a lot in discussions

VERIFIABILITY, RELIABLE SOURCES, AND NO ORIGINAL RESEARCH

- ${\color{red} \circ}$ More core policies
- ${\color{blue} \circ}$ All of the facts in a Wikipedia article need to be verifiable with a secondary, reliable source
- Scientific journals, textbooks, and books from university libraries are awesome
- Websites by academics (unless self-promoting) and news outlets are also good
- NOR: make no new synthesis or conclusions, include nothing that's unpublished

CONDUCT

- o Try to be kind and cordial to other editors
- o Assume Good Faith (AGF)
 - Even if people are doing something wrong, assume they are trying to help and willing to learn
- Disagreements should be hashed out on talk pages
- Don't attack other people personally; comment on the contributions and not the contributor

TALK PAGES

- Everyone has a talk page (click "Talk" next to your username in upper right)
- o Articles have them too
- ${\color{blue} \bullet}$ You can add a new section by clicking the "new section" button
- Sign your contributions to talk pages (not articles) with 4 tildes (~~~~), autofilled with name & date
- Indent change of discussant, for clear threading; indent with 1, 2, ::: colons (not spaces or tabs)

HELP!

There are many resources if you have trouble

- Teahouse
 - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Teahouse
 - Friendly place for experienced Wikipedians to help newer contributors
- ${\color{red} \circ}$ WikiProject Biophysics Talk
 - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ Wikipedia talk:WikiProject Biophysics
- o How Wikipedia Works free on Google Books
 - http://books.google.com/books?id=lHdi1CEPLb4C

DON'T GIVE UP!

- Someone may remove your contribution or nominate your article for deletion
 - · This happens all the time, don't panic!
 - Remember it's all still there, under History tab
 - Ask on the editor's talk page why they removed it or nominated it for deletion
 - Politely explain on their talk page or the article's talk page why it should exist
 - · Participate in deletion discussion, if there is one
 - Get expert help if it's truly vandalism (rare)

BE COMMITTED BUT NOT POSSESSIVE

- No one "owns" an article or topic in the Wikimedia system
- o You can get wonderful help from other editors
- You indirectly get credit & recognition (even in the contest) for
 - $\bullet\,$ others you interest and involve in your effort
 - handling those interactions well

ENJOY THE SATISFACTIONS

- ${\color{red} \circ}$ Watch others re-use your material
- Meet interesting editors
- o Learn more about the topics you edit
- Win Biophysics contest prizes! Contest page:
 - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/
 wikipedia:WikiProject Biophysics/Biophysics wikiedit contest
- Work up to Good Articles, Valued Images, etc.
- See your work on the main page, with 300 million views per day!
- Spread free knowledge and help to educate people you don't even know