

Wikipedia Improvement by Supported Expert Revisions (WISER) Project

Generally, as you examine a Wikipedia page for the quality of the content and sources as a package for the WISER project, there are two major categories you need to consider. An appropriate article to select may only lack a small amount of correct content and quality sources. Other articles may be lacking other aspects that will make the page a weak package. There are many pages that only lack sufficient good sources to support what is there. Other pages are ‘Stubs’ or are lacking a great deal more than just sources. For this project, you need to select an article that can be improved by the addition of expert knowledge or support that is reliable and of quality. Though you can do more work to improve the article in other areas that is not needed to earn a good grade on the project.

When assessing a Wikipedia article as a candidate for revision for the WISER project, you should consider two things: 1. Is the article mostly well done but in need of quality support (and perhaps some additional content) and 2. Can you provide properly formatted citations and sources that are reliable and of quality to support the current content of the article along with any content you add or revise. To help you do this, I have listed out the criteria for judging all aspects of a Wikipedia article. The most appropriate articles to use for the WISER Project are ones that need revision in an aspect of criteria 2 or 3 (Content or Support). A page that scores low on all areas will require more work than is required for the class.

Wikipedia Rubric Explanation

1. Scope, Target of article, and Tone

Wikipedia is meant to be an encyclopedia and so judges its entries for notability objectivity, and whether the article fits within the scope of the topic to which it is related. It also restricts any content that is promotional or opinionated. Wikipedia has guidelines for the types of material it accepts and the language that can be used. If you add content, it must be appropriate to the scope of the article and topic. The article needs to be written with the appropriate tone for Wikipedia. It should be objective, informative, and balanced. The article needs to be written for the intended target for the level of detail and content included. Some additions and edits may change the target of an article and thus change the intent of what is written and the position of the article in the larger schema of Wikipedia. As you add sources and content it is vital to be sure it is suited for the target of the article or explain why you have changed the target.

2. Content—Text, Headings, Organization, & Figures

The essential part of any article is the content and the way it is presented. This means that the text must be clearly and concisely written. It must be organized so the reader can follow what is presented with headings that are appropriate to what is presented as well as sufficient to assist the reader to move through the article. Finally, any figures that are used need to be illustrative and appropriate to the content. In addition, Wikipedia has strict copyright rules so that only freely available materials that are not held by anyone else (no copyright restrictions or conflicts exist) can be used. It is best to create your own work or use images in the Wikipedia commons when adding to an article. A page without any figures is a good candidate for the WISER project as long as you can create them yourself or find them in a freely available way. It is best to find an article that has all the necessary content and is well organized for the WISER project.

3. Support and authority—References and Notes

References refer to the material you use to support the content that is added and cited in the article and listed in the reference section. In some articles, notes are used to add meaning and are included in a Notes section. The sources must be both appropriate to support the content of

the article and be of quality and sufficient to support the content of the article as discussed in class. This is the most important area to improve for the WISER Project.

4. Connections—Branches In & Out, See Also and External Links

The branches into the article show what links to the article and can give a clue to the type of readers who access the page and the level of knowledge they bring. The branches out of your article connect your article to other parts of Wikipedia and make it easier to understand as well as assist the reader to gain more knowledge and clarification. The See Also section provides other Wikipedia articles that might be of interest to a reader but are not directly linked to with a branch out. This can allow readers of the page suggestions of other pages that they may desire to read which are not directly connected to the article but are still relevant to the topic. Finally, External Links are the URLs for pages outside of Wikipedia that are sources of information that support or relate to the page. For these sources, you need to use proper citations in an accepted form. All of these can be good areas to improve for the WISER Project but should not be the only edits made.

5. Context—Categories and Projects

The list of categories shows how the article fits into the overall groupings in Wikipedia. Projects are the major division or groupings of similar interest in Wikipedia. These labels should add meaning and demonstrate understanding of where the article fits within a larger schema in Wikipedia. Adding categories will make the article more visible and accessible to users. Understanding the projects that the article is part of will assist with meeting the needs of the reader and help ensure that added content and support are appropriate for how it is to be used by readers.

6. Community Activity—Article History, Project Discussion & Article Discussion page

Since Wikipedia is open to a larger community, all edits are subject to comment and revision by that entire community. It is important to see the feedback or lack-there-of for your page at the outset and be prepared for the feedback that might arise as you make your edits. When making your edits it is important to judge the quality of comments made and make appropriate adjustments accordingly. Each comment must be judged on its own merits. In addition, Wikipedia uses automated ‘bots’ to review content and so some of your edits may be marked or deleted without justification or notification. Frequent users can be named as administrators who watch pages and mediate discussions. Posting notes on the talk pages for your article, the project or the general Wikipedia community page can assist you to know what will happen as you make edits. The Wikipedia community works to find consensus on any dispute but this may take time and may cause you to have to justify your changes. Be careful and plan ahead as you make edits.

7. Overall assessment of the page

Considering all the assessments above and the needs of our project, it is necessary for you to judge the overall article you want to use as a way to meet the needs of the project. The goal of the WISER project is to add expert knowledge to support the existing page with quality sources and connections. These additions may impact other aspects of the page. In the end, you are being asked to improve the existing package not make a new one in part or in whole. This is expert editing. You are being judged on how well your work improves the page you select by providing verifiable sources of quality. It may be necessary to add content to improve the package but any content that is added must have an associated citation that connects to some source of quality as discussed in class.

Wikipedia Project Rubric for WISER Project Review

Student Name:	Article Title:
Wikipedia ID:	Current Article URL:

This list of criteria is the rubric that is used to measure the quality of a Wikipedia article for the WISER project. In order to assess your article and eventually make a report about the improvements you made to the article and to Wikipedia in general, these areas will assist you to discuss your evidence. As you fill out the rubric please explain how you arrived at the rankings for each item. Where possible, provide details such as number of links or reasons why the page ranks low in a certain criterion. The more details you provide the easier it will be to grade this and provide feedback to assist you with the project. You should have a short description for each section. Simply writing ‘yes’, ‘no’, ‘fair’ or ‘good’ is not acceptable.

Scoring ==> 1=Unacceptable; 2=Weak; 3=Fair; 4=Good; 5=Excellent

___ 1. Scope, Target of article, and Tone

Does the article fit within the scope of the topic and the guidelines of Wikipedia? Is it written for an appropriate target with the appropriate tone for an encyclopedia?

___ 2. Content—Text, Headings, Organization, & Figures

Is the text accurate and well organized with pictures and diagrams that support the material presented in a clear way? Is a vital aspect missing from the article?

___ 3. Support and authority—References and Notes

Are enough reliable and quality sources provided to support the content of the article?
Are the citations correctly formatted?

___ 4. Connections—Branches In & Out, See Also and External Links

Are the connections provided appropriate and able to add meaning? Are enough provided (List numbers for each)?

___ # of Branches In—What Links to the article

___ # of Branches out

___ # of See Also

___ # of External Links

___ 5. Context—Categories and Projects

Does the article provide links to where it fits within a larger schema in Wikipedia by listing categories and projects of which it is part?

___ 6. Community Activity—Article History, Project Discussion & Article Discussion page

How actively is the page edited and talked about in the community?

___ 7. Overall assessment of the page

What is your overall assessment of the article as a whole?