Writing for the world: Wikipedia assignment

Part I due September 27th   Part II due October 25th

In this assignment you will plan and prepare a contribution to Wikipedia. Wikipedia depends on volunteer contributors not just for completely new articles or major additions to old articles, but also to reorganize, add references, check spelling and formatting, of existing articles.

My aim is for you to contribute a significant but limited (about 8 hours of work, I estimate) improvement to Wikipedia. Your work breaks down into two parts, which are due at different points during the semester.

Part I: get registered and look around ≈ 2 hour
due September 27th, 11:59 p.m.

To be part of Wikipedia, you'll need to register as a contributor, look over some of the small projects needing work under **Help Out** in the Community Portal, and propose a few you'd like to work on. You should consider areas that you are somewhat familiar with, but there's no need to be an expert.

You also need to plan how to find out about Wikipedia conventions for formatting, spelling, and grammar, as well as more general principles that go by acronyms such as NOR, NPOV, or even V. If you aim to consult, and quote, other sources, that should also be part of your plan. It's often good to consult the Wikipedia community, so your plan may involve consulting the talk page for your chosen project.

Submit your proposal as a PDF file `wikiI.pdf` to MarkUs. Your proposal will include your userid, e.g. `Bertholtbrecht` (this one may already be taken), links to the Wikipedia pages for articles you might want to work on, and your plan (one or two paragraphs) on how to prepare. You must continue working with the same userid for both parts of this assignment.

The deadline for part I is 11:59 p.m., Friday September 27th.

Part II: preparing sandbox prototype ≈ 6 hours
due October 25th, 11:59 p.m.

Using the feedback from part I you'll be able to select a work-needing project from the **Help out** section of Wikipedia English's Community Portal. Rather than actually changing Wikipedia, you'll create a proof-of-concept, called a sandbox, to help you and others decide whether you should actually proceed to making your changes available to the world. You should consult other Wikipedians that are interested in the project, and let them know your plans. This may involve modifying your plan slightly, but that's the spirit of Wikipedia.

Once you log in as a Wikipedia user, you'll find a link to your own personal sandbox near the top of your browser. This is where you create your proposed changes to Wikipedia. You may need to ask other users, and Wikipedia documentation, for advice on how you make your personal sandbox look like the "real" thing.

You must submit `wikiII.pdf` to MarkUs, a PDF document containing one thing: your Wikipedia userid. This should be the same userid as you submitted in part I, but submitting it has the effect of creating a

page in MarkUs for your TA to give you feedback. We'll check out the work done by your userid by October 25th, and evaluate that.

wikiII.pdf must be submitted by 11:59 p.m., Friday October 25th.

Writing Centre

If you'd like advice on writing, the University provides Writing Centre help for our students. You should seek out their advice in this, any any other course where it's needed.