

Waffling over wikis?

SIMPLE STEPS TO PUT WIKIS TO WORK FOR YOU

When effectively used in the classroom, wikis can be a valuable tool in helping students master higher order thinking skills, like creating and evaluating.

Wikis allow collaborative learning, where students construct their own content, edit that of their peers, and provide feedback to others. This helps build a sense of community, which is especially important for online courses where students can feel isolated.



Wiki is Hawaiian for “quick or fast.” When used in the context of software, wiki is a website that allows users to easily contribute to or edit content – thereby allowing the site to grow rapidly and become more robust.

Here’s how you can put wikis to work for you.

Write an assignment description

Include the requirements each student must follow when writing their wiki posts, as well as your expectations for feedback.

Create a page structure everyone must follow

Sharing this template with your students ensures content is consistent across the class, and it is easier for students to navigate through each one.

Encourage personalization

Allow students to personalize their wiki within the template by adding color and graphics. This allows students to be creative and maintain their (and the reader’s) interest.

TIP

Check each Wiki to make sure proper permissions are set up, so students can make changes and additions to their wiki.

Allow commenting

Commenting lets students give classmates feedback and encouragement throughout the semester. They are an essential part of building a community and a way for students to make improvements in their work.

TIP

Comment on students’ wikis. Your feedback is key to the instructor-student relationship in your class.



UNMC provides faculty with a wiki tool through Canvas. Simply create a page for each student and select “Teachers and students” under the “Options: Can edit this page role section.” Then, students can comment directly within the wiki, utilizing a discussion board or an assignment with peer reviews.

Additional Resources

Covelli, B. J. (2017). Online discussion boards: The practice of building community for adult learners. *The Journal of Continuing Higher Education*, 65(2), 139-145. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/07377363.2017.1274616?scroll=top&needAccess=true>
Pappas, C. (2013). How to use wiki in the classroom. *Asynchronous Learning*. Retrieved from <https://elearningindustry.com/how-to-use-wiki-in-the-classroom>.



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