

This is supplementary material for the webtext “Wikipedia as Editorial Microcosm” by Joshua DiCaglio et al., published in *Kairos: A Journal of Rhetoric, Technology, and Pedagogy*, 29(1), available at <http://kairos.technorhetoric.net/29.1/topoi/dicaglio-et-al/index.html>.

Picking a Good article to work with

For this project, we'll pick **TWO** articles to work with.

The first big hurdle with this project is to find an article that fits within the parameters and task for this project. By the end of this project, you'll have a good sense of the issues involved and get good at seeing them. At the outset, however, you'll have to try extra hard to see these issues. Thus, while you may find an article just by wiki-surfing through topics of interest, here are some other strategies to help.

1. Useful tags

Wikipedia has some tags that tend to be placed on articles with the issues we're looking for. These include:

- [Cleanup Rewrite](#).
- [Style issues](#)
- Any page with the [Essay-Like](#) tag - [list is here](#)
- [Articles for improvement](#)

These are only those who happen to have been recognized and tagged as needing these issues by other wikipedians. Some may or may not be appropriate for this project, and there are other pages that may need our help that do not have an obvious tag.

2. What to look for: Signs of a good article

- The article has a confusing or limited organization -- including too many or too little sections, or sections that are excessively long or short.
- The article has no lead (the portion before the table of contents) or too extensive of a lead.
- There is content that doesn't fit or isn't tied into the article.
- The article is clearly unbalanced in terms of content and focus
- The style or tone of the article is not encyclopedic.
- The article does not look like an article of that sort usually does on Wikipedia (for example, movie articles all have the same basic sections).

3. What to avoid:

- Overly controversial or busy articles (too many people are editing at the moment)
- Overly short or lengthy articles (unless you're going to focus on a particular section, as in the Virtual Reality article discussed in the introductory document)
- Articles at risk of being deleted
- Articles currently being worked on by another class, unless you think there is space for both of you to work. If that class is using the WikiEdu dashboard, they will be tagged in the talk page.
- Articles that are locked (semi-protected is usually ok)
- "[Stub](#)" articles
- [Good](#) articles or [featured](#) articles (you'll see the symbol in the top right corner of the page, see below for example of "Featured Star")

55 Wall Street



From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Coordinates:  40°42′22″N 74°00′34″W﻿ / ﻿﻿ / ﻿

4. What to check:

Be sure to look at the following to get a better picture of the article's history and shape:

- Look at the [history of edits](#) for the article.
 - When was it created?
 - When did it have substantial revisions and edits?
 - When were the last substantial edits? Is someone working on it now?
- Look at the [talk page](#)
 - In the box at the top:
 - What projects is it involved in?
 - What is its rating by that Wikiproject?
 - Assuming its rating is up-to-date (not always the case), we're looking for something in the C through A range, not a stub and not a Good Article or Featured Article.
 - Look if there is any archived talk pages; examine these if so
 - In the actual discussions, check:
 - Is there some degree of involvement? There doesn't have to be, but you can often learn a lot from these.
 - What are the discussions about? Any red flags or points of interest here?

Using these guidelines, find 5 potential articles to work with and post them on your userpage. I will then use your talk page to point out which might be the best to work with.

To practice posting and getting oriented to our userpages and talk pages, we'll post these at your userpage:

- Find your **userpage** – Login to wikipedia and you'll see your name replace the “Not logged in” at the top right corner. Click your name to get to your userpage.



- On the **userpage** – You should already see an automatically generated box saying that you're a part of our course.
 - To edit this page, simply click "edit." You can use this page however you'd like, but we'll use it first to post your potential articles.
- Here's where it gets a bit harder. For this assignment, **I want us to use the Wikicode editor, NOT the visual editor.** Doing so will make the text look a bit like code, but it will also teach you a basic HTML-like language that will come in handy going forward. You need to get used to this and learn to work with it.
[Check out this basic introduction here.](#)
 - You can also [take this training module here if you'd prefer](#)
 - [\(Links to an external site.\)](#)
- To post your potential articles, hit "edit" on your userpage.
- Create a new section using a second level heading. Type: "=="Potential articles=="
- List your articles, marking each line with a * to create a bulleted list, like so:
 - * Selection One
 - * Selection Two
 - * Selection Three
 - * Selection Four
 - * Selection Five

- Now, [internal links](#) within Wikipedia are easy to make: you just add double brackets (this kind `[[]]`) around the text you want to link. The issue is that the text inside the brackets has to match the name of the wikipedia page exactly, **including caps and spaces**. Do this with your selections so that I can directly follow the links.
- Scroll to the bottom and hit "Show Preview". Check to see if your headings, bullets, and links worked properly.

This is a [minor edit](#) Watch this page Permanent ▾

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Publish changes **Show preview** **Show changes** **Cancel**

- If everything looks as it should and the links work properly, hit "Publish Changes"