

Working in the real world: what students learn by editing Wikipedia

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My BIOL 345 course



- Upper-level non-majors class in ‘Human Ecology’
- Students created (or improved) Wikipedia pages about local ecology
- They worked in pairs; draft pages were peer-reviewed by classmates
- Worth ~30% of their course grade

Pages by BIOL 345 students

Article [Talk](#)

Metro Vancouver

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The Metro Vancouver supply Column cities s Capilar hectare respect control metres Conser the wat highway

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1.

Article [Talk](#)

Banff National Park

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Banff National Park /bæŋf...
Mountains. The park look...

Article [Talk](#)

Everett Crowley Park

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Everett Crowley Park is a 38-hectare large forested park with [Champlain Heights](#) area of [Vancouver](#).^[1] The park was previc has been reforested for recreational means. Currently, it is Va park.^[2] The surrounding neighborhood was the last area to be the 1970s.^[3] The park is maintained, developed, and protecte Park Committee (ECPC).^[4] Everett Crowley Park is also a do Crowley Park is situated north of the [Fraser River](#). It is a 3-mi Vancouver's developing River District, on the edge of the Fras

Contents [hide]

- History
 - Everett Crowley
- Ecology
- Everett Crowley Park Committee
- Events
 - Earth Day
 - Birding With Margo
- Attractions
 - Trails

Article [Talk](#)

Banff National Park

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Coordinates: 51.5°N 116.0°W﻿ / ﻿

Article [Talk](#)

Vancouver Community Gardens

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Vancouver Community Gardens are a locally based and community-minded form of agriculture that often takes place in urban areas. Vancouver citizens involved in Community Gardens pledge to support the farm (via money, land or labor) and in turn receive a portion of the goods produced for personal use. Vancouver has over 75 community gardens in city parks and school yards.^[1]

Contents [hide]

- Process of becoming a Community Garden in Vancouver
 - Government
- Benefits of Community Gardens
- Products Produced by Vancouver Community Gardens
 - Vegetables
 - Fruit
 - Chickens and Eggs
 - Honey
 - List of Community Gardens in Vancouver


Davie Street community garden
Vancouver BC Canada


Map showing the location of Everett Crowley Park in Vancouver

conflicts and destabilization of [Parks Canada](#) and the Elk Advisory very.

d to the elk. They were created to help e town of [Banff](#). These measures

Support for faculty and student editors

Wiki Education Foundation

- Course site with week-by-week activities and resources
- Template for course creation
- How-to-edit teaching resources (pdfs, online tutorials)
- Help desk
- Assigned support person for your course

The screenshot displays the Wiki Education Foundation help desk interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with a home icon, 'ALL UNANSWERED', and a search bar containing the text 'search or ask your question'. Below the navigation bar, the main content area shows a list of 57 questions. Each question entry includes a title, a 'Tagged' section with tags, a 'Sort by' dropdown menu (set to 'by date'), and statistics for 'no votes', 'answer', and 'views'. The questions listed are:

- How do I change the name of a page?** (Tagged: student, instructor; 1 answer, 1k views; Jul 15 '16 Ian (Wiki Ed))
- How do I get articles out of sandboxes into mainspace?** (Tagged: sandbox, student, studentfaq; 1 answer, 42 views; Jul 15 '16 Ian (Wiki Ed))
- Can I see a student's real name? Or only their Wikipedia username?** (Tagged: dashboard, student, instructorfaq; 1 answer, 74 views; May 24 '16 Helaine (Wiki Ed))
- How do my students enroll their usernames on the dashboard?** (Tagged: dashboard, student, instructorfaq; 1 answer, 180 views; May 24 '16 Helaine (Wiki Ed))
- Should I choose articles for my students or allow them to choose which article they will work on?** (Tagged: article_selection, student, Content_Experts, instructorfaq; 1 answer, 195 views; May 24 '16 Helaine (Wiki Ed))
- How do I assign articles to my students?** (Tagged: dashboard, student, article_selection, instructorfaq; 1 answer, 2k views; May 24 '16 Helaine (Wiki Ed))
- Can my students work in groups?** (Tagged: assignment_design, student, Wikipedia_policy, sandbox, instructorfaq; 1 answer, 38 views; May 24 '16 Helaine (Wiki Ed))

On the right side of the screenshot, there is a 'Log in' link and a 'Activity' section showing a list of course weeks with their respective date ranges:

- Week 1: 01/03 - 01/09
- Week 2: 01/10 - 01/16
- Week 3: 01/17 - 01/23
- Week 4: 01/24 - 01/30
- Week 5: 01/31 - 02/06
- Week 6: 02/07 - 02/13
- Week 7: 02/14 - 02/20
- Week 8: 02/21 - 02/27
- Week 9: 02/28 - 03/05
- Week 10: 03/06 - 03/12
- Week 11: 03/13 - 03/19
- Week 12: 03/20 - 03/26
- Week 13: 03/27 - 04/02

The Roundup: Human Ecology

By Eryk Salvaggio on August 8, 2016

Ecology focuses on the relationships between the living creatures in an ecosystem, so it makes sense to think about ecology on a local scale.

Ecology topics within Canada got a boost on Wikipedia thanks to University of British Columbia students in Dr. Rosie Redfield's Human Ecology course. In that course, students create various projects, including a community project, a YouTube presentation, and Wikipedia articles.

They ended up working on 52 articles, improving the content on Wikipedia and the environment in a variety of Canadian contexts. These articles are a great resource, and the work they do is aimed at using the knowledge they have to better inform the public.

For example, they asked the question "Where does water come from?" Students answered that question for 2.4 million people by editing the Wikipedia article on the [Metro Vancouver watersheds](#). That article describes the water supply for many residents of British Columbia. The article describes the geography of the watershed, but also describes logging and fishing controversies that surround it.

Sometimes water comes from beneath your feet. But sometimes, it comes from the sky. So students also created an article on [rainwater harvests in Canada](#). This one describes property rights in various provinces, applications of the practice, and a list of impacts and benefits.

Those are some examples of ecology applied to human impacts on the environment. Other articles focus on outlines of the ecology of places. For example, the article about Vancouver's [Everett Crowley Park](#)

Yesterday's post on the Wiki Edu blog (Wiki Education Foundation)
<https://wikiedu.org/blog/2016/08/08/the-roundup-human-ecology/>

Three kinds of benefits

Thinking deeply about course material

What are the key concepts?



How do these topics fit together?



What do readers want to know?



Is this work 'notable'?



Three kinds of benefits

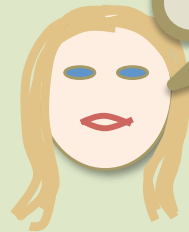
Information literacy



Oops, this image is copyright



A blog isn't 'authoritative'.



This page is trying to sell me something!



Better use this review article in an open scientific journal

Three kinds of benefits

Social skills and values



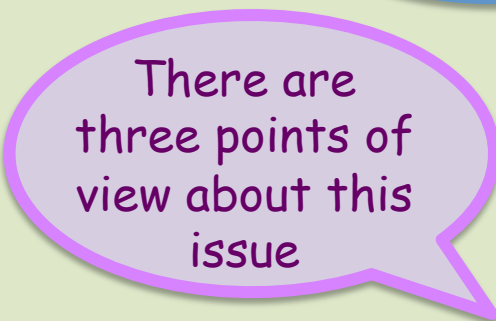
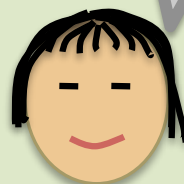
It's not *MY* article any more, but it's a better article



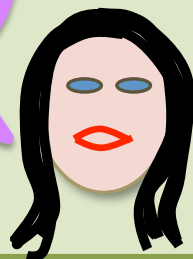
I'm sharing my diagram in Wikimedia Commons!



I'm getting help from strangers!



There are three points of view about this issue



Anyone anywhere in the world can read my article!





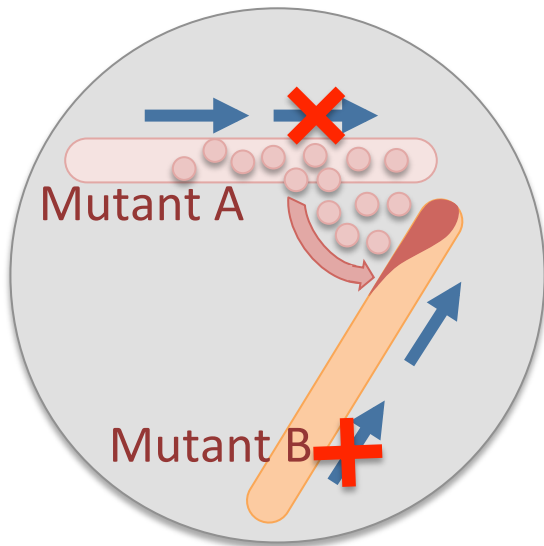
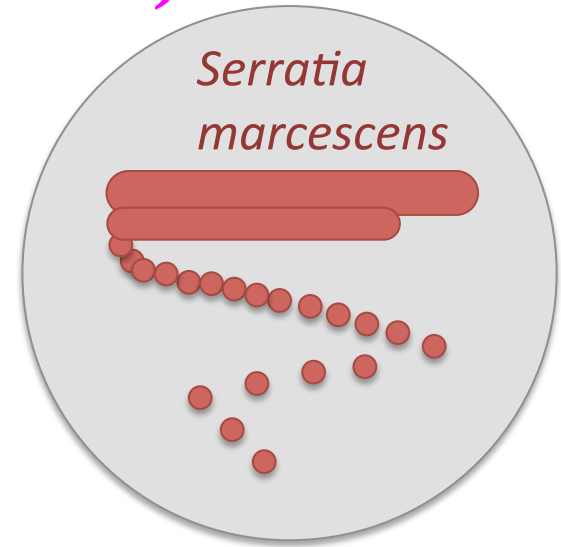
To find out more about the Wiki Education Foundation, leave your contact information below. We'll be in touch!

Name	University	Email address	Department

On the table at the back

Here's something to do in the lunch break
(on the table at the back of the room)

Map a biochemical pathway using cross-feeding mutants



Normal pathway:
Genes 1 & 2 encode steps to make the red product.

