

The Characteristics of Quality Wiki Pages

One of the first steps to creating a quality wiki page is to spend time exploring other student wiki pages. Working with your research group, use the handout below to evaluate the wiki pages designed by three groups of sixth grade students who were presenting potential solutions to Global Warming—one of the primary challenges facing our world today:

Wiki Page: The Solution to Pollution (http://snipurl.com/srf2h)		
Question to Consider: <i>(The following questions will help you to evaluate the overall quality of the wiki page you are exploring.)</i>	Your Answer:	Notes: <i>(What about this wiki page was impressive? Will you copy any of their ideas? What would you improve about this work?)</i>
1. Does the wiki page have an appealing layout that makes reading and exploring easy? Have subtitles or a Table of Contents been used to organize content? Were they needed?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
2. Is the content included on this wiki page accurate and engaging? Have the authors included links to reliable external sources that you can explore to verify their information? Are you convinced by the arguments presented by this student group?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
3. Have interesting images and embedded content like videos or slideshows been included to catch the attention of readers? Would readers be drawn in or distracted by this extra content?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
4. Has the content on this wiki page been proofread carefully? Do typing errors or grammar mistakes get in the way of your understanding? Do you have to work to make sense of the content shared on this wiki page?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
5. Have the authors of this wiki page used the comment section in a meaningful way to plan their work? Is there evidence that this project was a collective effort, or does it look like most of the work was done by one or two group members?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
6. Does the Page History of this wiki project show that this final product has changed significantly over time as group members added new content or made meaningful revisions to existing content?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

Wiki Page: The Green Squad (http://snipurl.com/srfrz)		
Question to Consider: <i>(The following questions will help you to evaluate the overall quality of the wiki page you are exploring.)</i>	Your Answer:	Notes: <i>(What about this wiki page was impressive? Will you copy any of their ideas? What would you improve about this work?)</i>
1. Does the wiki page have an appealing layout that makes reading and exploring easy? Have subtitles or a Table of Contents been used to organize content? Were they needed?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
2. Is the content included on this wiki page accurate and engaging? Have the authors included links to reliable external sources that you can explore to verify their information? Are you convinced by the arguments presented by this student group?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
3. Have interesting images and embedded content like videos or slideshows been included to catch the attention of readers? Would readers be drawn in or distracted by this extra content?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
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5. Have the authors of this wiki page used the comment section in a meaningful way to plan their work? Is there evidence that this project was a collective effort, or does it look like most of the work was done by one or two group members?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
6. Does the Page History of this wiki project show that this final product has changed significantly over time as group members added new content or made meaningful revisions to existing content?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

Wiki Page: *The Global Warming Girls* (<http://snipurl.com/srfys>)

Question to Consider: <i>(The following questions will help you to evaluate the overall quality of the wiki page you are exploring.)</i>	Your Answer:	Notes: <i>(What about this wiki page was impressive? Will you copy any of their ideas? What would you improve about this work?)</i>
1. Does the wiki page have an appealing layout that makes reading and exploring easy? Have subtitles or a Table of Contents been used to organize content? Were they needed?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
2. Is the content included on this wiki page accurate and engaging? Have the authors included links to reliable external sources that you can explore to verify their information? Are you convinced by the arguments presented by this student group?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
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6. Does the Page History of this wiki project show that this final product has changed significantly over time as group members added new content or made meaningful revisions to existing content?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

Now that you've had the chance to explore wiki pages created by other student groups, work with your student research group to answer the following reflection questions:

Reflection Question	Your Response
If you were to rank the three wiki pages listed above in order from the best to the worst, what would your rankings look like? Why?	
In your opinion, what are the characteristics of the best wiki pages? Why? Would your answer change depending on the audience that a wiki page was designed to reach? How?	
In your opinion, what is the greatest mistake that student groups could make when creating wiki pages? What will your group do to avoid making those mistakes?	