

Paperless Projects: Use Wikis in Angel  
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January 2010

A collaborative wiki project in a web-enhanced, hybrid, or online course engages students in a learning experience without the use of paper. Wiki-building promotes interaction among students, as well as between students and online reading materials. It makes reading and writing more relevant to students. Students can work on their wikis with instructor guidance during class time in a computer lab or as an independent assignment. Since wikis are a feature in Angel, students can share their researched information with the class, whether that class is on campus or online.

Before you create your wiki assignment, divide the topic to be researched into five or six sub topics and make a list. Decide which students will work with which sub topic. Create enough wikis to cover all of your subtopics and to allow approximately 5 or 6 students in each group. It is helpful to students if you create a model wiki with access to all teams that you can use to explain the assignment to them.

### Example

One example of a wiki project is the one I developed for my Reading and Study Skills 1 course for a thematic unit on pollution. I assigned five different topics to five groups. I asked the groups find informational articles and images from reliable web or OCCC database sources and use them to build their wikis.

#### The Topics to Research:

- pollution and endangered animals
- space junk
- ocean dumping
- plastic
- e-waste

#### The Assignment: Group Wiki Research Project on Pollution

Instructions: Your group assignment is to build an informational wiki about your assigned pollution topic and prepare to make a presentation to the class. Each member of the group must complete one new entry in this wiki and work with others in the group to complete all of the following tasks. Be sure to click save after placing items in the wiki box. You can return to add more material later by opening your wiki entry and mousing over the upper right hand corner of the wiki box till edit appears and clicking edit.

**Individual student tasks:** Each student in the group will find and read a web article from a reliable source about your topic and complete the following tasks. You may not use the same article as another student.

1. Write a paragraph in your own words to summarize two examples of the type of pollution discussed in your article. Be sure to attribute your source in your paragraph. Load into your wiki your paragraph. Paste a link to the article after the paragraph.
2. Find one picture to illustrate an important effect of your pollution topic and paste it into your wiki box under your paragraph.
3. Be sure to proofread for skills errors.

**Group tasks:** Your group is responsible to post in the wiki the following items.

1. Prepare a **welcome statement** for your visitors (classmates) who will view your work. The purpose of the statement is to give an introduction and overview of your group's wiki. Feel free to add links to photos that illustrate your topic.
2. A **glossary in alphabetical order of ten or more technical terms** found in all of your articles. Each student must contribute at least two terms with a definition. In your wiki, open a new entry and label it Glossary. All group members can add words to the entry by opening it and pointing to the upper right corner. A menu will appear. Click edit. Add and save the information.
3. An **image gallery** of ten images of the effects of your topic. Open a new entry and label it Image Gallery. Type a label to identify each image. Paste the link under the label in the gallery.

In conclusion, even though creating a wiki assignment can seem a little daunting at first, I have found it to be highly motivating for students and very beneficial as they learn and apply academic skills and processes. As their instructor, I have learned a great deal from student wikis as well.