Section 5— Tips for creating an article page on Wikipedia

# English Wikipedia has more than five million articles, but there are still gaps in content. Many topic areas need deeper, more comprehensive coverage. As you add citations and peruse Wikipedia articles in subject areas that matter to you and your community, you’ll likely see gaps and realize that some topics still need articles. Here’s a primer on what to do when you’re ready to take the plunge and create an article.

## Five new article “musts”

1. Ground your article in 3-5 verifiable references that are independent from the subject of the article (WP:V)
2. Clearly establish encyclopedic notability in lead of the article (WP:GNG), that means multiple secondary sources independent from the topic (e.g. a personal website by the person you are writing about is not a good source, but biographical books, museum catalog descriptions, and magazine reviews about them are good sources)
3. ~250 words in body of article; avoid promotional language and give even coverage to all points of view, no undue weight (avoid words like “the best,” “amazing” etc. with citations). (WP:NPOV, WP:NOR)
4. Aim to add at least one category to the article (E.g. “American jazz musicians”)
5. Add in- and out- wikilinks to and from the article (WP:ORPHAN)

# Instructions on how to create an article

* Start the new article from a redlink. A redlink is a wikilink without a corresponding Wikipedia article page. You may find an existing redlink that you’d like to develop, or you can add a redlink to an article or worklist because you’ve noticed the topic is missing.
* Draft the article in your user space. Create a new draft article in your userpace by modifying the following url: …wiki/User:*YourUsername*/*Article\_title*. For example, Monika (User:Monikasj) created …[wiki/User:Monikasj/Conseula\_Francis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/User:Monikasj/Conseula_Francis).
* When you’ve accomplished the “musts” above in your draft space, **move** the article to the main space by clicking “more” in the toolbar and selecting “move.” Follow the instructions provided on moving the article.
* You’ll need to have had your account for a minimum of FOUR days and have made at least TEN edits to other, live Wikipedia pages in order to be “autoconfirmed” and have the technical ability to move a page
* It seems counterintuitive, but the “Articles for Creation” and “Submit your article for review” process can be cumbersome, ask help questions at the [Wikipedia Teahouse](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Teahouse) (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Teahouse)

**Warnings**

* Most, if not all, new articles are patrolled by community members concerned about the reliability and authority of Wikipedia. To prevent vandalism, defamation, copyright violation or the inclusion of promotional commercial content, edits and articles created by new editors are frequently reviewed. New articles that are not clearly encyclopedic or are written by editors who have not demonstrated in their editing history that they understand the community’s mission and vision often are flagged for deletion. There are two kinds of deletions:
* A “speedy deletion” will delete articles in hours for vandalism or clearly promotional articles (read the Twitter bot feed “Deleted Wiki” for a gander at the titles that never made it to main space: <https://twitter.com/DeletedWiki>)
* The AfC process (Articles for Deletion), however, takes at least seven days and requires community conversation; an administrator (sysop) will make the final decision–during this time you can improve the article!
* If your article is flagged for deletion, don’t panic! Other editors will help you improve it. WikiProject Women in Red has a [helpful, thorough essay](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:WikiProject_Women_in_Red/Essays/Primer_for_AfD,_AfC_and_PROD) on what to do next if you find your article is in trouble.

**Tips**

* Have confidence! If you’ve created an article, followed the “five article musts” and heeded the advice here, it’s unlikely that your contribution will ultimately be deleted. That said, be prepared to stand up for your article’s qualifications in meeting WP:GNG in the event it is nominated for deletion.
* Remember, writing an article is hard –connect and collaborate with colleagues who are also editing on your article draft in user space. Even though the article will be drafted in one user space, when you move the article to main space the editing history will be preserved.
* **Save a copy of your article on a hard-drive**; if it happens that your article is deleted, only a Wikipedia administrator (sysop) can view the article, so be sure you’ve got back-ups.
* Biographies about living people are often subject to extra scrutiny, to protect the identity of the person. Here is a good top ten list on how to create a biography article from the Women in Red Wikiproject for more details on biographies. These are often the most fun to write!

 Elements of a quality Wikipedia article

1. **A clear, easy-to-understand lead section**
2. **A clear structure**
3. **Balanced coverage of many aspects of the subject**
4. **Neutral coverage, written without bias toward a particular point of view**
5. **Reliable sources are cited throughout the article (at least one source per paragraph)**

*Last updated 2 March 2018*