# Learner Guide **** Section 3

### Contribute to the Wikipedia body of knowledge

##### This is the third section of the course Wikipedia + Libraries: Better Together—and this section lasts

*two weeks!*

This week we’re getting started with editing. Put what you’ve learned to work as you make your first contribu- tions to the Wikipedia body of knowledge. Use this learning guide as a worksheet to support your experience for the third section of the course.

Topics for the week include:

* Basics of editing Wikipedia
* Where to go for help in the Wikipedia community
* Selected topics in editing; working with photos on Wikipedia
* Guest presenter will share experiences as an editor

#### Pre-work (before the next live session):

* Complete [Editing Basics,](https://outreachdashboard.wmflabs.org/training/editing-wikipedia/editing-basics) a 22-minute self-paced tutorial that covers “Visual Editor” and “Edit Source.”
* Add a “Conflict of Interest” statement to your user page
* There is no one correct way to do things (“no firm rules”). Editors will interpret the content policies

differently, there are gray areas. That’s why civility is important. Comment on the content, not on the contributor.

* Ask yourself, “how is what I'm doing making Wikipedia a better place?”

There is no “ownership” of articles, articles will always

change, things are never “finished.”

Small edits are great (gnomes are respected). Every

contribution makes a difference.

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You can’t break Wikipedia. Don't worry!

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Editing is fun! As you get started, remember:

# Live Session THREE



WP:BOLD — “Be bold!”

...

“Whatever you can do or dream

you can, *begin it*.

“Boldness has genius, power and magic in it!”[[*citation needed*]](https://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Johann_Wolfgang_von_Goethe)

* [Date and Time]

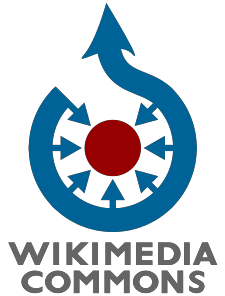
Use this guide as a companion to the live session and discussion board assignments to scaffold learning.

Let’s edit! Ways to begin:

Adding a citation to Wikipedia.

Copyediting / Fixing typos / organization

Adding external link to collections and additional resources



Adding a photo to an article

Improving a stub or starter

Add a photo. Click Visual Editor to edit. Click on “Insert,” select “Media” and either search Com- mons or upload a photo.

Copyright governs photo use on

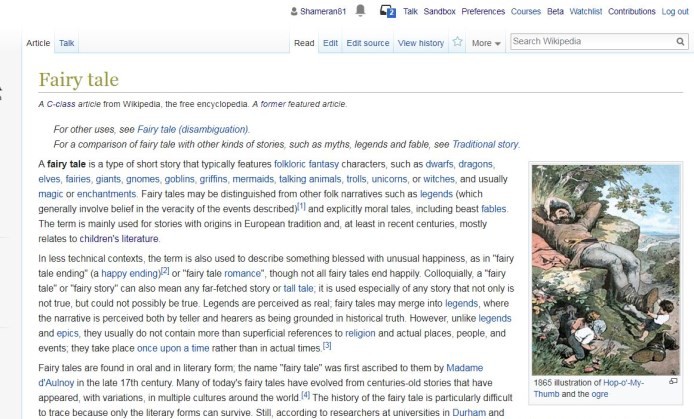
Wikipedia. How does this

impact your evaluation of articles?

Copyright and

Wikipedia

Follow the prompts. Insert and save. Voilà!



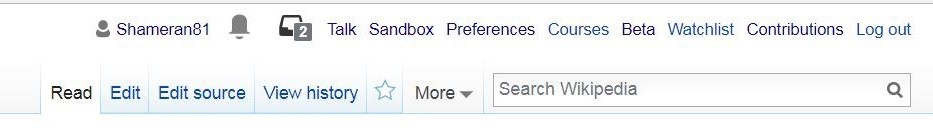
## Assignments

#### You have two weeks to complete these assignments

1. **Practice editing (choose one or both options for this assignment)**
   * Option A : “I want to practice editing Wikipedia in a safe space.” Great! Your Wikipedia user page has a Sandbox for you to familiarize yourself with the interface or develop drafts. Practice adding cita-

tions, sections, external links, and images in your Sandbox. To access your Sandbox, log in, go to

your user page and look for the link in the top right navigation between Talk and Preferences.



* + Option B. “I’m ready to edit existing articles on Wikipedia.” Great! Practice by being a “gnome” and making little improvements, such as copy editing. For guidance, see [*Wikipedia: How to copy edit*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:How_to_copy_edit): “*Make it say what it means and mean what it says."* It may take some patience to find an article

that needs copy edits. Here are a few places to start looking:

1. Click [Random Article](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special:Random?) in the left navigation column until you find one that needs work.
2. Choose an article from [stub](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Stub-Class_articles) or [start-class](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Start-Class_articles) article lists.

* *Editing opportunities: address word choice, clarity, style, grammar; fix typos; reformat references.*
* *Save your changes by including an edit summary.*
* *For questions on style, refer to the* [*Manual of style*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Manual_of_Style) *(WP:Style).*

1. **Add a citation to an article**

* Find an article that needs verifiable citations. Choose an article that interests you or click through the “[citation hunt”](https://tools.wmflabs.org/citationhunt/en?id=53893125&amp;cat=all) to identify an article.
* Focus on adding at least one citation. Research to verify the information to be cited in the article. You may find that the claim needs to be deleted rather than cited. No problem! It’s about improving the encyclopedia. For inspiration, look to the story about [librarians who participated in a #1lib1ref](http://www.webjunction.org/news/webjunction/1lib1ref-highlights.html) (1 librarian, 1 reference) campaign.
* Save your changes by including an edit summary.

### Discussion guidelines

In the discussion forum: Share what you learned by making these contributions. Was this how you expected Wikipedia editing to be? Why or why not? Be sure to celebrate your accomplishments in learning how to expand access to the world of information by editing Wikipedia!

## Assignments, continued

#### You have two weeks to complete these assignments

1. **Observe the** [**Wikipedia Teahouse**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Teahouse)



This is a public support forum on Wikipedia where new editors can ask more experienced volunteers for help.

* + Observe between 2-4 conversations.
  + View “[Question archive](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Teahouse/Questions/Archive_Index)” listed at the top for more.

**Discussion guidelines**:

In the discussion forum: Share with your peers your impressions of issues that are discussed at the Teahouse. Describe one of the questions that was asked and how it was addressed – was it resolved, why or why not? How does this experience expand your understanding of Wikipedia’s community processes?

#### Further reading and exploration (entirely optional)

* [Librarians Improve Wikipedia During Global #1Lib1Ref Campaign—](http://www.webjunction.org/news/webjunction/1lib1ref-highlights.html)read about #1lib1ref and the experiences of librarians who added citations to Wikipedia
* Advance your editing know-how with more tutorials, we recommend:

[Sandboxes and mainspaces tutorial](https://outreachdashboard.wmflabs.org/training/editing-wikipedia/sandboxes)

[Contributing images and media files](https://outreachdashboard.wmflabs.org/training/editing-wikipedia/images-and-media)

* [Illustrating Wikipedia: A guide to contributing content to Wikimedia Commons - pdf](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/b1/Illustrating_Wikipedia_brochure.pdf)

Next section, Wikipedia empowers community

The next live session will be [Date and time].

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