

Wiki Lesson Plan

I. Summary

A lesson plan for students in grades 9-12 that will examine wiki use and creation.

II. Objectives

- To become familiar with the use of wiki webpages
- Become familiar with websites that utilize these technologies
- To learn to create and use wikis

III. Materials Needed

- A functional computer
- A internet connection

IV. Procedure

- Discussion about wikis
 - What is a wiki?
 - Anyone have any favorite sites?
 - Advantages and disadvantages of wiki use?
 - Specific Wikipedia pros and cons, academic controversy
 - How to set up and edit wikis

- Wikipedia <http://en.wikipedia.org>

Best known and most controversial wiki, provides common context for most students

- Other wikis

Collaborative Novel Experiment <http://www.amillionpenguins.com>

WOW wiki <http://www.Wowwiki.org>

Lost wiki <http://www.lostpedia.com>

- Classroom exercise

Students work together in groups of three to create the beginnings of a wiki on a topic of their choosing. Suggestions include planning a prom or graduation party, a school play, or coordinating details of a study group.

Each group will show their wikis to the class and briefly discuss their experiences and what they learned. What kinds of projects is this format good for? What are the drawbacks?

V. Classroom Assessment:

Students will be assessed by the following criteria:

- Participation in discussion and activity
- Ability to work with teammates
- Demonstrated understanding of purpose and basic functionality of wiki websites
- Proven ability to successfully set up a wiki

VI: Extensions and Adaptations

- Have students investigate wikipedia articles, looking for errors. How serious are the errors? How much do they detract from the utility of the websites?

VII: Resources

- Encyclopedia:
 - <http://en.wikipedia.org>
- Dictionary:
 - <http://en.wiktionary.org>
- Quotations:
 - <http://en.wikiquote.org>
- News:
 - <http://en.wikinews.org>
- Books:
 - <http://en.wikibooks.org>
- Wikipedia definition of wikis:
 - <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/wiki>
- MediaWiki FAQ
 - <http://mediawiki.org/wiki/Help:FAQ>
- Wiki Cheat Sheet
 - <http://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Cheatsheet>