

CSC300, Winter 2009

Wikipedia assignment

due: February 23rd, 10:00 pm

January 21, 2009

INTRODUCTION

Wikipedia is a free encyclopedia created and maintained by a community of volunteer contributors from all over the world. In this assignment you will learn first-hand about the issues involved in such a project by making a valuable contribution to the English edition of Wikipedia.

REQUIREMENTS

Your contribution to Wikipedia may consist of any combination of the following tasks on a course-related topic. The course information sheet gives you a guide to course-related topics, check with me if you'd like to work on something not mentioned there.

- Creating a new article on a course-related topic of your choice.
- Expanding an existing stub or incomplete article. An example of an appropriate list of stubs is http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Computer_science_stubs. You should be able to add to the list of appropriate stubs.
- Editing an existing article for correctness, organization, grammar & spelling, NPOV.
- Adding Wikipedia features to an existing article (e.g. categories, infoboxes).
- Contributing to the discussion page of an article; for example helping to resolve an NPOV dispute/
- Split a long article.
- Any other contribution which you can cite (be creative!).

To see an example of the expected length of a new article, search for the January 23, 2008, article on Topological Sorting. Your contribution should involve a similar amount of work, but it may take a different form than a new article (see above).

CREDITING YOUR WORK / WHAT TO SUBMIT

Before making any contributions to Wikipedia, create a login account, and enable email from other users (this does not expose your email address, apparently).

On February 23rd, you submit your Wikipedia login. That is the only required content of the file `300wikipedia.html`, although you are welcome to include any explanatory material you wish.

`300wikipedia.html` must display legibly when the command `firefox 300wikipedia.html` is executed on a CDF machine.

HOW TO BE A GOOD WIKIZEN

If you are not already an experienced Wikipedia contributor, make sure to browse through the information linked from the “Wikipedia:Welcome, newcomers” page, particularly the sections on NPOV and Wikiquote.

HOW TO FIND A GOOD TOPIC

There are several ways to find articles in need of attention on Wikipedia. See the “To do lists” section on the page “Wikipedia:Community Portal” for ideas on how to get started.