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What is a WIKI?

Terminology & Trivia:

“A single page in a wiki is referred to as a ‘wiki page,’ while the entire body of pages ... is called ‘the wiki.’”

The name was based on the Hawaiian term *wiki wiki*, meaning "quick" or "super-fast".

The first wiki, the Portland Pattern Repository, was founded March 25, 1995

Key characteristics of wikis:

Documents and web pages are created collectively

Pages are easy to create and update, similar to Word documents

“Internal” and “external” links are simple to add

Images and videos can be included

Often wikis are open to the general public, but can be private

Wikis can be made with open-source programs

Why use Wikis:

Students can create learning materials!

Facilitate collaborative writing and interaction/reaction

Make writing assignments more appealing

Stimulate students’ interest in the subject

Make it easy to create and share collective pools of knowledge (world wide)

Wikis can expand both the audience and the participants in writing projects

Tips for successful task-design

Task-design and an assessment plan are crucial

Try to incorporate text when applicable

Allow experimentation time

Ease into it

Remember that collaboration is a skill

Create guidelines (or let your students create them)

Have an assessment plan and make it clear to the students

Wiki-fy that writing assignment!

Discuss ideas for wiki writing assignments:

Which uses of the wiki seem most promising or interesting to you? Why?

Can you think of a project that would work well for your class?

Goal – Identify one project that might work well on a wiki.

Think about:

Successful writing projects you’ve used in the past

Common challenges your students face

Places to make your own wiki

Wikispaces.com

Pbwiki.com