

Handout 3 about the wiki group coursework: reciprocal critiquing

Aims

- Critique one other group's wiki, give them your feedback.
- Receive feedback from others on your own wiki, and consider whether and how to revise it.
- Get ideas while writing your own critique about revising your own wiki, and share these ideas with your own group.

Main idea

- Each individual student should read the wiki of one other group allocated to them for this; and produce a short critique on the pro-forma supplied (as in the earlier exercise).
- The intended period for this is the week 6th – 13th Feb. (leaving a week for final wiki revisions).
- The critique should be submitted online to the special forum "Collected critiques of this classes' wikis", where each group can consult the ones addressed to them; but also you may wish to look through all critiques to see issues of wiki design more broadly discussed.

Details of how to do it

From the viewpoint of your own group, you will eventually see the critiques of your wiki gathered together.

If your wiki isn't ready for useful comments yet, immediately post a message to that thread saying to please hold off; and post another message as soon as your wiki is ready.

Note your assigned target wiki from the new list of students and groups in the companion handout. Look and see whether it is ready yet for you to critique (although you can't wait forever).

Download a Word document with prompts for creating your critique ("Wiki critique pro-forma"). Edit it as you like: ignore prompts that don't seem relevant to you, and add comments that seem important but not prompted for. Add pages or shrink empty space as you wish.

Be helpful: being needlessly negative doesn't help; nor does being politely silent about things which could be improved. The central issue is: does the wiki page you are reviewing help you, a fellow student, decide whether this topic is interesting, whether you want to study it for the exam; and if so then how/where best to start. Express your personal view on this, even though it is not likely that everyone will agree on what is helpful.

Copy/paste the finished contents of your critique OR upload the finished document as an attachment to:
a new message posted to the thread for the wiki you have critiqued
in the new class-wide forum "Collected critiques of this classes' wikis".

I will be able to see from that forum whether each student has done the critique asked for, and at what time.

The intended deadline for critiques is the last class session (Thursday 13th Feb). If you are kind, you will adapt when you do it to be helpful to the recipients, but there is a limit to how adaptable you can be. It won't be helpful to recipients if you post the critique much after the deadline, as wikis can only be edited up until Thur 20th Feb., but I may take notice both of late readiness of wikis, and late critiques.

I have assigned each student a target wiki in order that every wiki receives a similar number of critiques. However if you make a mistake and complete a critique for a different wiki, this won't ruin the whole exercise as long as few do this.

If you post your critique in the wrong place, you should be able to move it (or repost it in the right thread).