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Wikipedia Project  
Writing-Intensive 300-level LT-2 Core Course

Charlotte Lennox's novel *Henrietta* does not have a Wikipedia page, by which I'm sure you're all distressed! So, let's help out future students by creating one. This is a full-class project. See the entire assignment sheet on Canvas.

Pre-project work:

1. **Homework:** Complete the Wikipedia Training for Students tutorial:  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Training/For\\_students](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Training/For_students)
  - a. Create your account
  - b. Explore your sandbox
  - c. Create your user information page / biographical sketch
  - d. Submit your User Contributions URL via Canvas
2. **In-class:** Team Wikipedia Quiz / Go over assignment
  - a. **In-class:** (Activity A) How to recognize original research, point of view problems
  - b. **In-class:** Structure/content: Look at "Fantomina" and *Evelina* pages--what is included?
3. **Homework:** Write 1 paragraph for each part of our hypothetical page, upload to Canvas
  - a. summary
  - b. key characters
  - c. theme
  - d. style
  - e. overview
4. **Homework:** Canvas discussion board research post: Find 1 scholarly or biographical source (no overlaps!), download it to your computer. Read it, and post to Canvas discussion board:
  - a. bibliographic entry
  - b. upload the source
  - c. write 1 paragraph overview/summary of the source
5. **In-class:** Wikipedia Workshop/Activity B
6. **Homework:** Revise in groups
7. **In-class:** Lab revision time; add a source; add an image; add a template note
8. **Homework:** Revise in (different) groups; sources, content, and writing
9. **In-class:** Lab revision time
10. **Homework:** Revise
11. **Due:** Your user contributions page URL to Canvas

Wikipedia Entry: *Henrietta*  
Assignment Sheet

The next writing project will be a class-created entry on *Henrietta* for Wikipedia. You should have already completed the tutorial on Wikipedia for students and worked with your peers and in class on drafting parts of the essay. **Once we have the essay drafted, it will be your job to continue editing the Wikipedia entry over the next weeks.** The due date is November 16.

**Grading Criteria.**

If the essay is accepted (I will nominate it on the due date) as a front-page "did you know" item by Wikipedia, everyone will receive an A for this assignment. If the essay is rejected by Wikipedia, then no one can receive a grade higher than a B- (with the exception of the 'meritorious contributions' bump; see below).

Otherwise, you will be graded on the following characteristics:

1. The essay as a whole: content. Is the essay as a whole accurate? Does it maintain a neutral point of view? Does it contain ONLY objective and/or verified information? Is it consistent in content, style, and form with other Wikipedia entries on 18th century novels?
2. The essay as a whole: Does it contain an overview that addresses the novel and its significance as a whole, as well as (at least) complete subheadings for plot summary, characters, themes, and critical context?
3. The essay as a whole: references. Does the essay have a complete list of references, generated from in-text citations using Wikipedia's citation tools?
4. The essay as a whole: images. Does the essay include at least one relevant image, with caption, and alternative text?
5. The essay as a whole: links. does the essay as a whole contain at least 4 links to other existing Wikipedia pages?
6. The essay as a whole: writing style. Is the essay clearly written, in an unbiased way, containing no original research, and free of major grammatical errors?
7. Your contributions: Have you contributed substantially to the development of this essay, whether through adding content or through editing and revising other's work? Have you made at least 10 significant revisions to this page, documented through your user contributions page?
8. Your contributions: research. Have you included at least one appropriate reference to a research source in the body of the essay?
9. Your contributions: discussion. Have you weighed in on the talk page about the article's content or form?
10. Your contributions: in class workshop. Have you participated fully in in-class lab and writing work?
11. Your contributions: if your work is exceptional--as measured by the fullness of your contributions to the article--you will earn a "meritorious contributions" grade bump!

This will require open and full discussion with your peers! We will devote a portion of each class period to working on this project, and we will use the TALK page on Wikipedia to discuss the ongoing work of writing. **By the due date, please submit the URL for your USER CONTRIBUTIONS PAGE.**

Team Wikipedia Quiz!

*Work with a partner to answer the following questions. You have 15 minutes to complete this quiz.*

1. **True or False (circle one).** Anyone can contribute to Wikipedia articles.
2. **True or False (circle one).** Wikipedia's "be bold" pillar means that newcomers should immediately try to rewrite articles on very broad topics.
3. **True or False (circle one).** Patchwriting, copyright violations, and pasting copyrighted material into a Wikipedia article is plagiarism.
4. **True or False (circle one).** Articles can be rejected from Wikipedia for not having a neutral point of view.
5. What are the two most important principles of Wikipedia editing?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What is a "talk page"?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What is a "sandbox"?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. **True or False (circle one).** Disagreements about Wikipedia articles are resolved by voting among editors.
9. **True or False (circle one).** An article on *Henrietta* would be a good addition to this encyclopedia because it is underrepresented on Wikipedia and yet has been discussed in the field of eighteenth-century literary studies.
10. **True or False (circle one).** Dr. Howe will give everyone As on this project if our article on *Henrietta* makes it into the "Did You Know?" frontpage box of Wikipedia.

Wikipedia Groupwork/Activity A  
30 mins

Work in your small groups to locate examples in Wikipedia (not necessarily flagged as such, not necessarily in the articles we looked at together) of the following problems:

1. non-neutral or biased point of view -- what page is it on? \_\_\_\_\_

2. transcribe an example of biased point of view:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. unverified claim-- what page is it on? \_\_\_\_\_

4. what makes it unverified?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. verified support -- what page is it on? \_\_\_\_\_

6. how has the claim been verified?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. original research -- what page is it on? \_\_\_\_\_

8. how do you know it is "original research"?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Then, browse several wikipedia articles on novels. In the space below, make a list of the kinds of subheadings you might include in a wikipedia article on *Henrietta*.

- 
- 
- 
- 
- 

Finally, work together to put your bullet points above into a logical order that would be suitable for a wikipedia article.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

### Wikipedia Workshop/Activity B (FULL 3-HR CLASS)

For today, I asked you to bring in your paragraph drafts about *Henrietta*; as you can tell from our in-class work last week, these paragraphs represent the kinds of sections or subsections you might see in a Wikipedia article on a novel. Today, we'll first work in individually but together (so you can ask questions of each other too. I will tidy the page and assign you to smaller groups--e work through problems you encounter) in your personal sandbox. Each registered user has a sandbox, so by this time, you should have your account. Later, I'll put you into larger conceptual groups that will work individually on the class Wikipedia page.

NOTE: You need to have gone through the tutorial and completed it in order to move on to this step. Have a username/password, have played in your sandbox, and CREATED your user biographical sketch page.

#### **(40 Minutes) On your own, but with peers nearby to draw on for help:**

1. Log in to Wikipedia using the account you created. Click into your "sandbox"--the link is located in the upper right portion of the screen. Go to either "Edit" (easy WYSIWIG editor) or "Edit Source" (no WYSIWIG editor; Wikipedia markup code). **For simplicity's sake, let's all use the easy WYSIWIG editor.** This will automatically add certain things (like a table of contents) for us.
2. Open your draft paragraphs, copy and paste them into your sandbox.
3. Using the example of the ["Fantomina" page](#), **organize** your sandbox paragraphs. You should put your overview first, then move on from there.
  - a. Be sure you have top-level Heading titles for each paragraph. To do this, select the text for the "title" of your heading, and format it as "heading."
  - b. Note that you can add subsections, as well. Take a look at your options!
  - c. Each section will become editable, which is what we will capitalize on for our group editing.
  - d. In your character list, you might consider using sub-sub-headings or bullets.
  - e. Form should be determined in part by your content.
4. **Links:** Identify a word, brief phrase, or topic from your draft paragraphs that has a Wikipedia page already in existence, and make a link to it. **You will have to work with a peer to figure this out, but remember your Wikipedia tutorial!**
  - a. Consider linking to "Charlotte Lennox," "bildungsroman," "comedy of manners," "novel of manners," "English novel," "novel," and so on.
  - b. Note that spelling is important--if you have misspelled something that does exist on Wikipedia, the system will interpret that as a non-existent page.

- c. Select your word, and in the WYSIWIG editor, click the link icon. If a Wikipedia page exists, you'll see a list of possible pages to select from. If it doesn't exist, you will be given the option of adding an external link.
5. **References:** You should also have posted a piece of research to our discussion board, accompanied by a brief overview of its content. Incorporate one source into your draft paragraphs, wherever it is appropriate.
  - a. Be sure to introduce the author and source, and cite it, using Wikipedia's citation tools.
  - b. Click the cite icon in the WYSIWIG editor. Select the type of source, and then fill in the information. Required items are noted with an asterisk.
  - c. Titles of articles will be automatically "put in quotes" by Wikipedia.
  - d. If you have a stable URL from JSTOR or Project Muse, you can add that.
  - e. Using a direct quote, from a specific page? You need to add that page number! Hint: click the "add more information" option and expand as necessary.
  - f. **You will have to work with a peer to figure this out, but remember your Wikipedia tutorial.**
6. **Images:** Add an image from Wikimedia Commons. These are images that other users have already uploaded and are free for re-use in Wikipedia.
  - a. Click the "insert" icon, and then select "media." Note that you can search or upload. Click search, and search Wikimedia Commons for a relevant image.
  - b. Select your image, and click "use this image."
  - c. You'll be prompted to add some other information in the "general" settings--a caption and alternative tex. **You must add both.** You can use the same language.
  - d. Note the "advanced" options. Click in and look at them for your own information. Feel free to use them!
  - e. **Use your peers to help you figure this out!**
7. When you're finished, click SAVE PAGE--this is essential!
8. **Ready to move on?** Let's learn about adding "templates" so we can indicate where additional research, verification, clarification, and so on is necessary. This is how you get the superscript information in a wikipedia page! Good ones to use:
  - a. `{{Clarify}}[clarification needed]`: request clarification of wording or interpretation.
  - b. `{{Better source}}[better source needed]`: flags a statement as requiring a better source.
  - c. `{{Failed verification}}[not in citation given]`: source was checked, and did not contain the cited material.
  - d. `{{Verify credibility}}[unreliable source?]`: flag a source as possibly being **unreliable** or **unverifiable**.
  - e. `{{Verify source}}[verification needed]`: request that someone verify the cited source backs up the material in the passage.
  - f. `{{According to whom}}[according to whom?]`
  - g. `{{Definition}}[definition needed]`: flag a definition as being ambiguous / confusing

- h. `{{Dubious}}`<sup>[*dubious – discuss*]</sup>: flag something as suspected of being incorrect
- i. `{{Or}}`<sup>[*original research?*]</sup>: flag something as possibly containing **original research**
- j. `{{Vague}}`<sup>[*vague*]</sup>: flag a statement that is too vague to be unambiguously verifiable

## **(40 Minutes) Working on the group page!**

Once you have become familiar with writing in Wikipedia, we'll begin drafting our group page. Our group page will be here, during the drafting stages:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/User:Tonya.howe/Henrietta\\_\(novel\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/User:Tonya.howe/Henrietta_(novel))

**Nota bene:** While different people can edit different Wikipedia sections at the same time, if two or more people try to edit *the same* section simultaneously, “edit conflicts” can occur. So, I’ve created sub-headings for you each to work on. Want to add a new sub-section? We can do that!

Each person will work on one of the following subsections. Beside your assigned (or chosen) subsection, you’ll see two options: “edit source” and “edit.” Click “edit” and begin your work—you can start with your own language, or draft new material. I have created a basic structure to help us. **ONLY EDIT THE SUB-HEADINGS WITH DECIMAL NUMBERS!** This is to avoid edit conflicts.

- 1 Overview
  - 1.1 Overview A
  - 1.2 Overview B
  - 1.3 Overview C

- 2 Author
  - 2.1 Author A
  - 2.2 Author B

- 3 Plot Summary
  - 3.1 Plot summary A
  - 3.2 Plot summary B
  - 3.3 Plot summary C

- 4 Structure
  - 4.1 Organization
  - 4.2 Narrative Voice
  - 4.3 Style
  - 4.4 Genre

- 5 Themes
  - 5.1 Theme A
  - 5.2 Theme B

- 6 Characters
- 6.1 Character group A
- 6.2 Character group B
- 6.3 Character group C

- 7 Other Subheadings
- 7.1 Miscellaneous A
- 7.2 Miscellaneous B
- 7.3 Miscellaneous C

In your group page contributions, be sure to revise for style, tone, and content. I have already offered feedback to those of you who have submitted your paragraphs on Canvas.

Try to add at least one **link** to a wikipedia page, at least one supporting **citation** from your research, and EITHER at least one “direct quote” from the novel itself to illustrate an important statement (which should also be cited) OR an image from Wikimedia Commons.

Remember you can paraphrase, but all paraphrases still need to be cited in wikipedia as part of verifying your source!

**(15 Minutes) Reflection/commentary as a class:**

- what do we need to do next?
- have you posted your research to the discussion thread on Canvas?
- have you looked at my feedback on your paragraphs?
- structure of the page?
- questions?
- 
- 
- 

**(30 minutes) Using the Talk page or the Template tags:**

Take a few moments to look at what we’ve written, and to consider our reflections as a class (above). Then, spend 15 minutes on the Talk page. Ask a question, make a point, start a discussion; finally, reply to a discussion or a point that someone has started! Note that writing in the talk pages isn’t as user-friendly as when we use the pretty edit feature of Wikipedia. We may decide to do all our discussion on Canvas.

You can also INSERT TEMPLATES for things like verification, original research, vagueness, and so on. See the earlier handout. We’ll do some in class, too, but you may want to explore this functionality--need help? Google it! Try: “how to insert templates in wikipedia”!