

Students at all levels of skill benefit from interacting with Wikipedia in a more critical, participatory manner. As the table below demonstrates, projects can be organized around writing and criticism, around gender and the public sphere. Such assignments offer a rich context for students not only to see their own writing as potentially public, but also to assess the politics of women's writing in a public sphere that continues to be shaped by masculinist values often treated as neutral, unmarked, and invisible.

*Table 2: Sample Assignments*

<p><i>Criticism and rhetorics of valuation:</i> Compare the Wikipedia page for Shakespeare's play <i>Midsummer Night's Dream</i> or <i>A Winter's Tale</i>, which overlap thematically with Haywood's novel, to the page for <i>Love in Excess</i>. Notice links from and to each page, subcategories, sources, and writing style in each page. Write a summary of the differences you note. In your conclusion, draw a logical inference about the comparative status of these texts.</p>
<p><i>Summary and critical dialogue:</i> Draft a summary of the novel that covers the entire plot but clearly distinguishes between necessary and tangential information. Then, revise a peer's work, being sure their writing conforms to Wikipedia guidelines. Select the best summary and incorporate it into Wikipedia.</p>
<p><i>Critical approaches:</i> Locate one Wikipedia page that should link to <i>Love in Excess</i>, but doesn't, and one page that <i>Love in Excess</i> should link to, but doesn't. Add the links.</p>
<p><i>Critical approaches:</i> Incorporate an appropriate scholarly source. Working with a partner, locate, read, and discuss your source, being sure you understand its content. Identify possible places to incorporate your new information into the page, and together choose the best way to do so. Write 2-3 sentences, correctly cited according to the Wikipedia rules, that incorporate your new information into the page.</p>
<p><i>Academic writing and rhetorical analysis:</i> Examine the rules that guide writing on Wikipedia, paying particular attention to "Neutral Point of View" and "How to Write Simple English Pages." What universal rules for academic writing can you draw from these pages? Comparatively evaluate your own writing for this class.</p>
<p><i>Academic writing and revision:</i> Wikipedia has identified several "templates" or standardized messages that can be added to pages to indicate what additional editing or content is needed. An example appears on the Wikipedia page for "<i>Henrietta</i> (novel)," which identify the page as too long and in need of reorganization. Look through the available templates, and work with a partner identify which two or three might best apply to the page on <i>Love in Excess</i>. Insert the most important into the page.</p>