

## Moodle Wiki Questions and Answers

### **What is a Wiki?**

A wiki is a tool that can be used for multiple users to collaboratively create web pages quickly and easily. Wikis simplify web page creation so that users can focus on creating content rather than technical skills. Wikis also keep track of each change made a page, so that the history of each edit to a page is visible and the page may be reverted to any of its previous states.

### **OK, but why call it a “Wiki”?**

The term “Wiki” comes from the Hawaiian phrase “wiki-wiki” meaning “quick”. Wikis are intended to be a quick way for users to create web pages.

### **What does this have to do with my Moodle course?**

Moodle has a wiki activity that can be used in Moodle courses. Instructors may set up a single Wiki for an entire class to use, Wikis for several small groups, or multiple Wikis for multiple purposes.

### **How can Wikis be used in education?**

- As a brainstorming tool for group projects.
- To build an annotated bibliography of class readings.
- As an alternate to conventional presentation tools.
- As a platform for collaborative writing assignments.
- To allow a group or class of students to create a collaborative set of lecture notes or review content.
- As a tool for peer review of student writing.
- Creating a class or group glossary or dictionary of terms.

### **Why might I use a Wiki assignment?**

Wikis may be used to cause students to focus on writing as process instead of product. This makes them a good tool to introduce students to peer revision and writing for a peer audience. This can also engage students in a more interactive approach to group writing, rather than the “I’ll write the introduction, you do the body, and she’ll do the conclusion. Then we’ll paste them together and be done.” approach. Some applications, like having a class jointly create a lecture notes page can be difficult to accomplish using other methods. Finally, these things can be fun!

### **What disadvantages do Wikis have?**

Each Wiki or instance of a group Wiki can only be edited by one person at a time, so other users would need to wait until the first user had finished his or her edits. This makes Wikis better for homework applications than simultaneous in-class use.

### **How do you create new pages in a Wiki?**

Simply type out the word that you would like to use to link to the new page in brackets. This will create a link to a new page in the wiki. For example to create a link to a blank page called: “Definitions” you would type [Definitions].

### **Where can I see some example class Wikis?**

- <http://britishromanticism.wikispaces.com/> - This is a good example of a class Wiki. Beyond the student generated subject content, it includes assessment criteria, student feedback about their experiences using the Wiki, and instructor reflections.
- <http://educationalwikis.wikispaces.com/> - This site features a directory of education Wikis (from primary school to college), as well as a collection of tutorials and articles about using Wikis in education.