

# Group Wiki Term Project

## Purpose:

Science is an ongoing and dynamic process. Scientific research and discovery are still occurring today, and in ways that are and will affect our everyday lives, potentially even altering the structure of our government, society, and/or culture as it does so. The purpose of this activity is to explore current research in the Earth sciences, and effectively communicate the research, possible biases, and its impact on you and on society as a whole.

## What is a Wiki? (<https://www.teachersfirst.com/content/wiki/>)

- A wiki is a web site that lets any visitor become a participant: you can create or edit the actual site contents without any special technical knowledge or tools. All you need is a computer with an Internet connection.
- A wiki is continuously “under revision.” It is a living collaboration whose purpose is the sharing of the creative process and product by many. One famous example is Wiki-pedia, an online encyclopedia with no “authors” but millions of contributors and editors.
- The word "wiki" comes from Hawaiian language, meaning "quick" or "fast."
- What is the difference between a wiki and a blog? (<https://www.teachersfirst.com/content/wiki/>) A blog, or web log, shares writing and multimedia content in the form of “posts” (starting point entries) and “comments” (responses to the posts). While commenting, and even posting, are open to the members of the blog or the general public, no one is able to change a comment or post made by another. The usual format is post-comment-comment-comment, and so on. For this reason, blogs are often the vehicle of choice to express individual opinions.
- A wiki has a far more open structure and allows others to change what one person has written. This openness trumps individual opinion with group consensus.

## Instructions:

Choose a current Earth science topic that interests you. It can fall into the fields of Geology, Oceanography, Astronomy, or Atmospheric Science. The topic should be broad enough that you have enough interesting information to carry out a term project, but not so broad that you cannot relay pertinent information to cover important aspects of the topic.

Some examples of the types of the topics you may want to choose:

- Mass extinction events
- Conservation vs. resource extraction (water, oil, coal, etc.)
- Alternative energy versus fossil fuels
- Space exploration
- Geologic hazards (volcanoes, earthquakes, landslides, floods)
- Global climate change (how will it affect sea level, temperatures, weather patterns, disease, agriculture, pests, etc.)

## Content:

### The wiki should follow the format below:

- Because you are not experts on the topic, **resources are required** to be posted with your information for every section!  
**I. Title: of the Wiki (only one title is needed, not one for each section)**  
**II. Introduction: This should be a broad general introduction to your topic**  
**III. Background/History: This section will give the reader a bit of history or background about your topic**  
**IV. Current Research: this section will discuss the current research pertinent to your wiki topic. This will be the largest section of your wiki**  
Plagiarism will not be tolerated! Do not simply copy and paste information from papers or the internet. Photos should be from places like Google Commons, and videos must be placed as links.
- Be wary of violating copyright laws. If you are not sure if your post violates copyright laws, contact your instructor.
- Works Cited/Resources: these are all references you reviewed and used (cited) in the production of your wiki. After each entry, a resource for your information must be included.
- Whether you chose MLA or APA does not matter as long as the formatting is consistent throughout the entire wiki.
- **Resources CAN be from:**
  - Science Journals (Geology, Journal of Paleontology, Journal of Sedimentary Geology, etc)
  - Magazines (e.g., Discover, Scientific American, National Geographic, Nature, USA Today)
  - Newspapers or Government websites (e.g., NOAA, NASA, EPA, USGS...)
  - Google Commons
  - Science videos from legitimate websites that help explain or enhance your discussion.
- **Resources CANNOT be from:**
  - Wikipedia
  - Blog sites such as IFLS
  - Reference websites, e.g. geology.com, encyclopedia Britannica online, etc.
  - Unless you are using these sites as examples of misinformation.

## Teams:

The project will begin after census date and last for ~6 weeks (see the course schedule for the start and due dates). Groups be will selected randomly and the number in each group will be dependent on the number of students in the course. The group should elect a team leader to coordinate the organization of the wiki.

**You are all adults, please work together suitably! I will not change team members around, so make every effort to get along. You will be expected to do the same types of projects in your workplace, so conduct yourselves appropriately!**

- **Team leader:**  
Will coordinate the organization of the wiki and ensure the formatting stays the same throughout the entire publication

- **Team Members:**

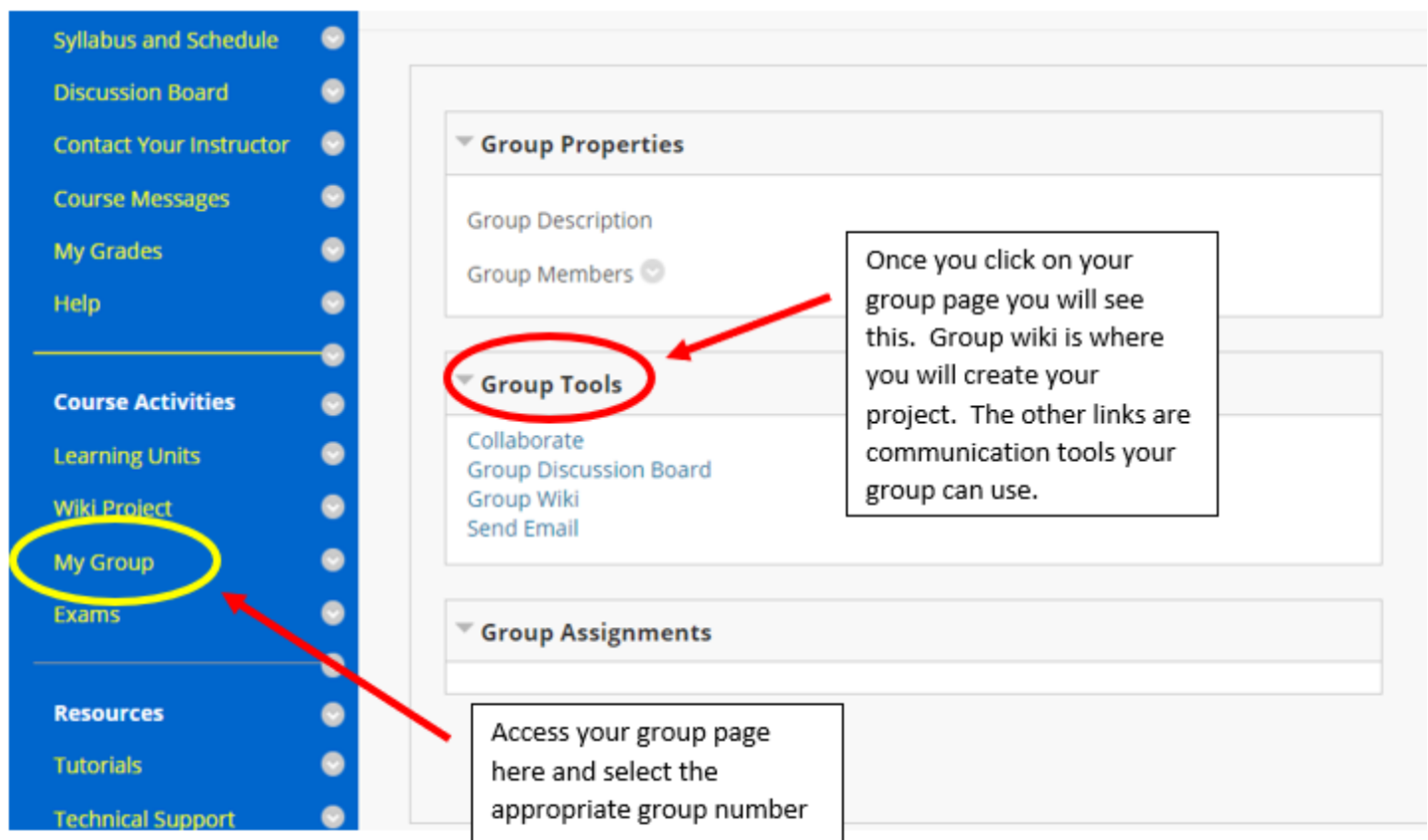
All team members are expected to contribute to the wiki by finding information and creating writeups to communicate information. **Each member is expected to contribute 1000 words and visuals such as graphs, photos, etc., to the project!!!!**

- **Other Guidelines/Info:**

- Create one wiki with a title decided upon by the group.
- You only have to introduce the topic once with appropriate background info, each successive post should be about a different aspect, or piece of research about the topic
- A final grade will be given for the entire project following the due date of the project.
- Each team member must contribute 1000 words.
- Every entry should have **images and/or links to videos** that enhance the information communicated in the wiki.

- **Where do I create the wiki?**

- The wiki will be created in Blackboard. The photo below shows you were to access the group tools and links.



- **Group Meetings:** Since this is an online course, group meetings can be held in Blackboard Collaborate, or the discussion board for the group. Though this is an online course, you are not forbidden from meeting in person. That is entirely up to the team.

## How will I be graded?

- Participation (individual) 20%
- Quality of resources used (team) 20%
- Communication about current research, quality of writing, and images used (team) 60%
- The group will receive a base grade comprised of 80% of the grade for the wiki. The other 20% will be based upon the individual member's contribution. As such, it is possible that not all group members will receive the same grade!
- I will not entertain email communications/complaints about a team member who is not doing anything. Again, you are adults, so conduct yourselves appropriately
- The communication and content portion of your grade will be based upon the rubric below.

## Rubric:

Each wiki's communication and content will be graded based on a 4-point scale. This scale takes into account:

- Grammatical correctness, spelling, and organization
- How well the research is understood and described in the wiki
- Discussion of implications the research has for you personally, whether the article had any influence on your point of view, or may influence public policy etc.
- How well you followed directions in the production of the wiki

Please note that each of these 4 sections is weighted equally! Each section will be graded out of 4 points, and the scores averaged together to give a final score. Note that scores of "3.5" or other numbers not shown on the rubric table can be awarded. To convert your score to a %, divide your score by 4 and multiply by 100.

|                                                                                | 1 point                                                                                                                                                          | 2 points                                                                                                  | 3 points                                                                                                                                                               | 4 points                                                                                                                                                                             | Points Scored |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Grammar, punctuation, spelling, and organization</b>                        | Many spelling, grammar, and punctuation errors                                                                                                                   | Some errors in spelling, punctuation, and grammar                                                         | Few errors in spelling, grammar and punctuation                                                                                                                        | Very few to no errors in spelling, grammar or punctuation                                                                                                                            |               |
| <b>Discussion of research topic, research data reported and cited properly</b> | Wiki does not discuss implications or impacts of research on team, community, or region. Does not comment on data generated, or back up comments with citations. | Sources and research data mentioned, but not explored. Implications to team or community vague.           | Team explores the research and data pertaining to the wiki topic. Relates the issue/topic implications to group or community. Poses some questions about the research. | Team explores and evaluates the data found in multiple sources, discusses possible biases in the research, and evaluates implications of data and poses questions about the research |               |
| <b>Organization/ Format, and Teamwork Instructions Followed</b>                | Difficult to read or follow line of thinking, formatting/ instructions not followed.                                                                             | Somewhat difficult to read or follow line of thinking, Issues with format, most instructions not followed | Easy to read and follow with minor issues in, formatting/instructions, and organization.                                                                               | Easy to follow, well-written, and organized. All instructions followed                                                                                                               |               |
| <b>Use of Images/videos to support information in the wiki</b>                 | The images and videos used in the wiki did not support the written communication.                                                                                | Most images/videos did not support, or were unrelated to the wiki written communication                   | Some images/videos used did not support the communication in the wiki. .                                                                                               | Appropriate images/videos were used in the wiki to support the written communication. All copyright laws were adhered to                                                             |               |
| Total Pts/16                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                      |               |