

Web Pages Project Handout #09

Creating a WikiSpace

[The following set of directions assumes that you are using Microsoft *Office 2007*. You may need to make minor adjustments if you are using an earlier version of Microsoft *Office*.]

WIKIS

A **wiki** is a page or collection of Web pages designed to enable anyone who accesses it to contribute or modify content. As such, under the guidance of a good teacher, a class wiki can be used to encourage students to communicate through writing and through audio-video content. The teacher is the guide at the side; the students follow the teacher's directions to help them learn and communicate what they have learned in an online environment.

This exercise will help you learn what a wiki is and, hopefully, point the way for you to use your wikis with your classes at a future date. Here are the steps you need to follow.

1. **Register** for a public **WikiSpace account** at www.wikispaces.com (we'll do this together in class).
2. Click on the **Help** link and work your way through the **video tours** (under **Get More Help**) a couple of times until you feel comfortable going ahead with creating your own wiki. You can go directly to the videos from here: <http://www.wikispaces.com/site/tour#introduction>
3. Use the topic of your PPLM as the **topic** for your wikispace.
4. Create a **basic page** with at least **three sub-topics** related to your PPLM subject matter. Make the sub-topic **headers** large (using one of the **Header** font options).
5. Write a paragraph (**minimum 100 words**) at the **top of the page** welcoming visitors to your wikispace and explaining the topic to which your wikispace is devoted.
6. For **at least one of the sub-topics** you have defined in step 4, create at least **one sub-link** for a picture page (as

demonstrated in the Help videos at wikispaces.com—see **Step 2** above).

7. Add at least **3 pictures** at the sub-link that you created in step 6.
8. Personalize (**Manage**) your space in any way you want.
 - Add **at least three members** (from amongst your classmates, perhaps).
 - Also make me a member of your wikispace (professorbpoole -- poole@pitt.edu) so that I can add my own comments to your wikispace after I check it out. When you're student teaching or teaching full time, you could make the students in your class members of your class wikispace and give them assignments to add pages of their own on topics relevant to what you or they are doing in class.
 - Keep the wikispace **protected** so that **only members** can edit pages.
 - Under **Settings**, select a **Look and Feel** of your choice.
 - Add a **logo** of your choice (maybe a little pic related to your PPLM topic; check out the appropriate video for how to create the logo).
9. When you think you're done, send your instructor the URL for your wikispace so that it can be checked out.