

Wikipedia Frequently Asked Questions

Wikipedia is a large and popular online encyclopedia. What makes Wikipedia unique when compared to other online encyclopedias is that anyone can create and edit Wikipedia's content. While this means information on Wikipedia can be inaccurate, the site provides an excellent starting point for online research, provided that students verify information in multiple sources. Wikipedia also provides students with the opportunity to take on the role of an instructor and create educational resources that can be accessed by anyone around the world.

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1. How do I create a new page in Wikipedia?

In order to create a new page in Wikipedia, you need to have a Wikipedia account.

- 1. Go to http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main Page.
- 2. Click the **Log in/create account** link on the top of the home page.



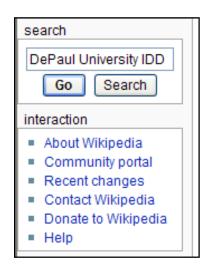
3. To create an account, click the **Create one** link.



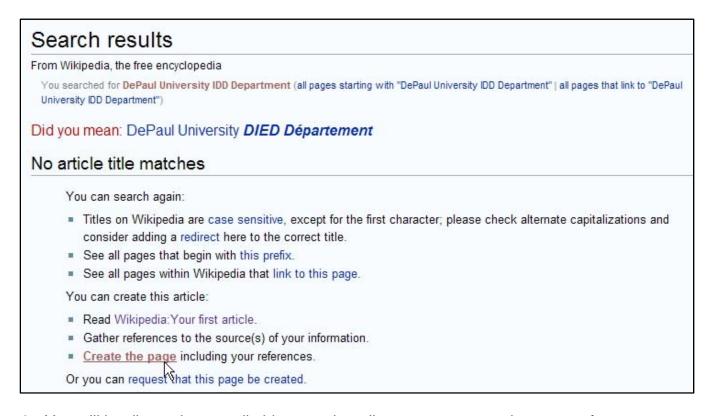
4. Fill out the required information and click the **Create Account** button.

Once you have either created an account or logged into Wikipedia, you can begin the process of creating a page.

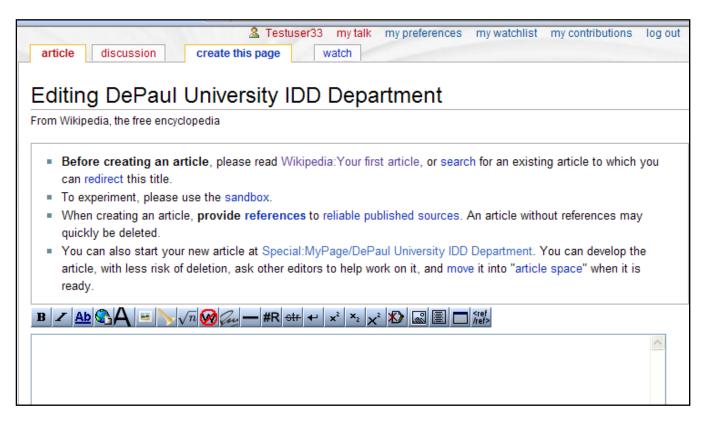
1. Search for the subject about which you'd like to create a Wikipedia page. If there is already a page on this topic, you may want to consider contributing to that page. (Instructions on how to contribute to an existing entry are provided in the "How do I edit a page?" section.)



2. If your topic does not already have a page, the search results will display a message stating, "No article title matches." Click the **Create the page** link to create the page.

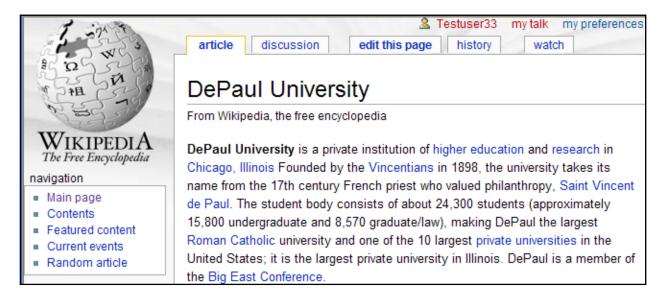


3. You will be directed to an editable page that allows you to create the content for your Wikipedia entry.

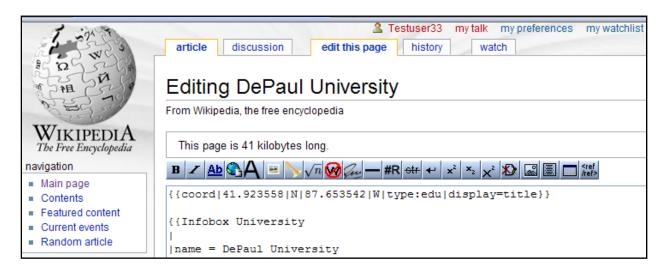


2. How do I edit a page?

- 1. Go to the page you'd like to edit.
- 2. At the top of the page, click the edit this page tab.



3. Once you've clicked the **edit this page** tab, you should see a text-editing toolbar and a text area with all of the current information from this Wikipedia entry. You can use this text editor to delete, change, or add content to the page.



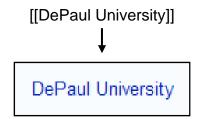
4. When you have finished editing, be sure to click the **Save page** button to save any of your changes.



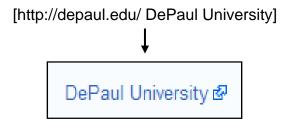
3. How do I create a hyperlink in an article?

There are two main types of links you'll probably create in Wikipedia pages: links to other Wikipedia pages and links to other websites. You can create these links by using specific formatting as you edit a page. (Instructions on how to edit a Wikipedia page are provided in the "How do I edit a page?" section.)

1. To link to another Wikipedia page, simply type the title of that Wikipedia page inside double brackets:



2. To link to a website outside of Wikipedia, use single brackets around the information for the link. In the brackets, copy (Ctrl+C on a PC or #+C on a Mac) and paste (Ctrl+V on a PC or #+V on a Mac) the web address, add a space, and type the word(s) you'd like to use as the link.



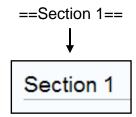
Note: Links to other Wikipedia pages appear in a slightly darker blue than links to other websites. Links to other websites also include a small arrow symbol to indicate that the link leads to a website outside of Wikipedia.

While these are two of the most typically used link types, there are many other ways to add specific formatting to links. For more information on link formats, see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:Link.

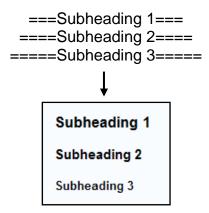
4. How do I create a section in an article?

You can create sections in a Wikipedia article by using specific formatting as you are editing a page.

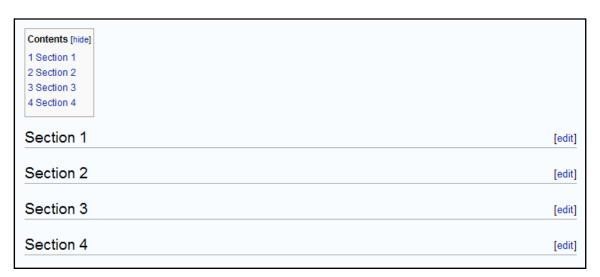
1. To create a section heading, enclose the heading title in double equal signs.



2. Subheadings can also be created. For each equal sign added to the text, the subheading will decrease by one level.

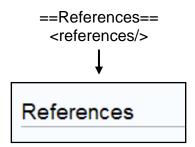


3. Once there are more than three sections created in a Wikipedia article, Wikipedia will automatically generate a Table of Contents at the top of the page.



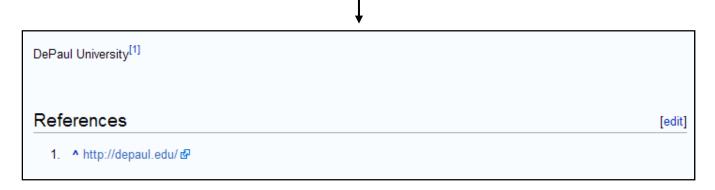
5. How do I add footnotes to an article?

 Create a section for your References by inserting ==References== at the end of the article. (Instructions on how to create sections in a Wikipedia page are provided in the "How do I create a section in an article?" section.) Additionally, you need to include the <references/> below the section heading as shown below.



To insert a footnote in the text of the article, enclose the citation in the tags <ref> <ref/>. This
will automatically insert a superscript number that links to the citation, and the citation will be
included under the References section as shown in the example below.

DePaul University<ref>http://depaul.edu/</ref>



3. As you continue to add footnotes in the text of the article, those references will be listed and automatically numbered under the References section.



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