Wikipedia cont’d
Outline

Logistics

Structure

Tone

Verifiability
Logistics

This week

http://www.ics.uci.edu/~dramanan/teaching/ics139w_fall10/schedule.html
Wikipedia Structure

What should a Wikipedia article look like?

Lead section
Table of contents (optional)
Section with headings
See Also (optional)
References (inline citations)
External Links

Lead Section

- Section before first heading and table of contents

- Serves as introduction and summary and motivation
  (create reader interest; why is it noteworthy?)

- 1-4 paragraphs of clear, accessible prose
1) The article should begin with a declarative sentence telling the nonspecialist reader what (or who) is the subject.

2) Most commonly, the article's subject is stated as early as possible in the first sentence, and placed in boldface:

The [b]electron[/b] is a subatomic particle that carries a negative electric charge.
Table of contents

For each page with more than three headings, a table of contents (TOC) is automatically generated from the section headings
Section Headings

Article dependent
Aim for 3 - 5 sections

Summary article: links to other “detail” articles, presumably all coming from a single article that grew too big. It is a challenge to keep them synced.

News article: Prose style used for news reporting who, what, when, where and why (the Five Ws) and also often how
‘See also’ section

A Good Wikipedia Article...

- **Branches out**: it contains [wikilinks](https://example.com) and sources to other articles and external information that add meaning to the subject.

- **And branches in**: editors have found and edited other significant wiki pages which make mention of the topic and link them to the article.
References

Very important - key to “verifiability”!

Citations are what allow you to write an article without any original research
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Encyclopedic, not editorial

Words to avoid:

Subtle issues

Is this okay?

Bob Dylan is the defining figure of the 1960s counterculture and the greatest songwriter of all time.
Bob Dylan is the defining figure of the 1960s counterculture and the greatest songwriter of all time.

Much better:

Dylan was included in Time's 100: The Most Important People of the Century, where he was called "master poet, caustic social critic and intrepid, guiding spirit of the counterculture generation".[1] By the mid-1970s, his songs had already been covered by hundreds of other artists.[2]
No original research

Including implied conclusions

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:No_original_research/Examples

The UN's stated objective is to maintain international peace and security, but since its creation there have been 160 wars throughout the world.
No original research

Including implied conclusions

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:No_original_research/Examples

One could just as easily imply the opposite...

The UN's stated objective is to maintain international peace and security, but since its creation there have been 160 wars throughout the world.

The UN's stated objective is to maintain international peace and security, and since its creation there have been only 160 wars throughout the world.
Verifiability


Citation is a key component of Wikipedia articles

Primary, Secondary, Tertiary sources
Sources

* **Primary** sources are very close to an event, often accounts written by people who are directly involved, offering an insider's view. An account of a traffic accident written by a witness is a primary source of information about the accident.

* **Secondary** sources are second-hand accounts, at least one step removed from an event. They rely for their material on primary sources, often making analytic or evaluative claims about them. For example, a review article that analyzes research papers in a field is a secondary source for the research.

* **Tertiary** sources are publications such as encyclopedias or other compendia that mainly summarize secondary sources. Wikipedia is a tertiary source. Textbooks are either secondary or tertiary.

Wikipedia articles ideally reference secondary (or tertiary) sources.
In 1985, Dylan explained the attraction that folk music had exerted on him: "The thing about rock'n'roll is that for me anyway it wasn't enough ... There were great catch-phrases and driving pulse rhythms ... but the songs weren't serious or didn't reflect life in a realistic way. I knew that when I got into folk music, it was more of a serious type of thing. The songs are filled with more despair, more sadness, more triumph, more faith in the supernatural, much deeper feelings."[29]

Still secondary source (article)!


**General rule**: avoid copying large blocks of text

- Large quotations make article sound less encyclopedic
- Rather than copying text, rewrite in your own words
- Small quotations mixed in with prose reads better
- Copying large portions of (even cited) text borders on plagiarism
- Extreme case: 400 words from a 500-page book was ruled to be infringing (Harper & Row vs. Nation Entripes)
Images


First issue: copyright

- For an image to be considered "free" under Wikipedia's Image use policy, the license must permit both commercial reuse and derivative works.

- Wikipedia strongly prefer "free" images, wherever that is possible. Where no free image exists, it is sometimes permissible to use a non-free (copyright-protected) image under the "fair use" provision. Fair use, in the United States, is the legal right to use copyright-protected materials under certain conditions; Wikipedia has its own conditions that are more restrictive than what is legally permitted.
Rules of thumb

-Caption: Use the image description page to describe an image and its copyright status.

-Title: Use a clear, detailed title.

-Righ-res: Upload a high-resolution version of your image and use automatic thumbnailing option of Wikipedia

-Cropping: copy the image to highlight the relevant subject.

-Raster graphics versus vector graphics: Use JPEG format for photographic images and TV or Movie screenshots; SVG format for icons, logos, drawings, maps, flags, and such; PNG format for software screenshots and when only a raster image is available; GIF format for inline animations; and Ogg/Theora (free codecs) for video.