

# Editing Wikipedia

Community Payback for undergraduates

User:Polypompholyx

- Overview of Wikipedia
- Basic wiki syntax
- Create a simple article in your sandbox
- Coursework details



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# Wikipedia five pillars (5P)

1. Encyclopaedia
  - Notable topics
  - No original research (NOR)\*
2. Neutral point of view (NPOV)
  - Verifiability (referencing)
3. Free content
  - Anyone can edit
  - No copyright infringements
4. Be civil
5. No firm rules



The screenshot shows the Wikipedia page titled "Wikipedia:Five pillars". The page is in English and is part of the Wikipedia project. It lists the five fundamental principles of Wikipedia, each with a corresponding icon and a brief explanation. The principles are: 1. Wikipedia is an encyclopedia, 2. Wikipedia is written from a neutral point of view, 3. Wikipedia is free content that anyone can edit, use, modify, and distribute, 4. Editors should interact with each other in a respectful and civil manner, and 5. Wikipedia does not have firm rules. The page also includes a sidebar with navigation links, a search bar, and a footer with the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License.

Project page [Discussion](#) [Read](#) [Edit](#) [View history](#) [Search](#)

## Wikipedia:Five pillars

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The fundamental principles by which Wikipedia operates can be summarized in the form of five "pillars":

-  **Wikipedia is an encyclopedia.**  
It incorporates elements of general and specialized [encyclopedias](#), [almanacs](#), and [gazetteers](#). [Wikipedia is not a soapbox](#), an [advertising platform](#), a [vanity press](#), an experiment in [anarchy](#) or [democracy](#), an [indiscriminate collection of information](#), or a [web directory](#). It is not a [dictionary](#), a [newspaper](#), or a collection of [source documents](#); that kind of content should be contributed instead to the [Wikimedia sister projects](#).
-  **Wikipedia is written from a neutral point of view.**  
We strive for articles that document and explain the major [points of view](#) in a balanced and impartial manner. We avoid advocacy and we characterize information and issues rather than debate them. In some areas there may be just one well-recognized point of view; in other areas we describe multiple points of view, presenting each accurately and in context, and not presenting any point of view as "the truth" or "the best view". All [articles](#) must strive for [verifiable accuracy](#): unreferenced material may be removed, so [please provide references](#). Editors' [personal experiences](#), [interpretations](#), or [opinions](#) do not belong here. That means citing [verifiable](#), [authoritative sources](#), especially on controversial topics and when the subject is a [living person](#).
-  **Wikipedia is free content that anyone can edit, use, modify, and distribute.**  
Respect [copyright](#) laws, and do not [plagiarize](#) sources. [Non-free content](#) is allowed under [fair use](#), but strive to find free alternatives to any media or content that you wish to add to Wikipedia. Since all your contributions are [freely licensed to the public](#), no editor [owns any article](#); all of your contributions can and will be mercilessly edited and redistributed.
-  **Editors should interact with each other in a respectful and civil manner.**  
Respect and be polite to your fellow [Wikipedians](#), even when you disagree. Apply Wikipedia [etiquette](#), and avoid [personal attacks](#). Find [consensus](#), avoid [edit wars](#), and remember that there are 4,143,499 articles on the English Wikipedia to work on and discuss. Act in good faith, and [never disrupt Wikipedia to illustrate a point](#). Be open and [welcoming](#), and [assume good faith](#) on the part of others. When conflict arises, discuss details on the [talk page](#), and follow [dispute resolution](#).
-  **Wikipedia does not have firm rules.**  
Rules in Wikipedia are not carved in stone, as their wording and interpretation are likely to change over time. The principles and spirit of Wikipedia's rules matter more than their literal wording, and sometimes improving Wikipedia requires making an exception to a rule. [Be bold](#) (but not [reckless](#)) in updating articles and [do not worry about making mistakes](#). [Prior versions of pages are saved](#), so any mistakes can be corrected.

Wikipedia principles	<a href="#">[show]</a>
Key Wikipedia policies and guidelines	<a href="#">[show]</a>

Category [\(+\)](#): [Wikipedia basic information](#) [\(-\)](#) [\(+\)](#) [\(+\)](#)

This page was last modified on 15 December 2012, at 03:41.

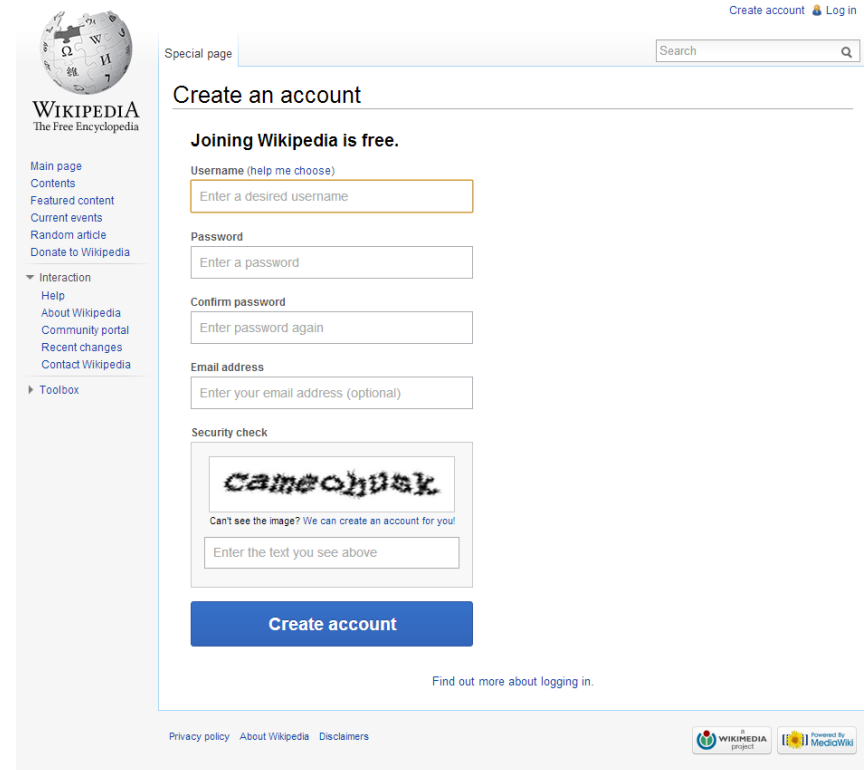
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# Creating an account on the English language Wikipedia

- Submit username to me *via* BlackBoard
  - If you're an editor already, use current login
- Do NOT use college username or password
- Do NOT use 'Imperial' in your username



Special page  Search

Create account [Log in](#)

## Create an account

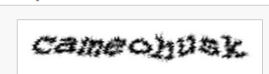
**Joining Wikipedia is free.**

Username (help me choose)

Password

Confirm password

Email address

Security check  
  
Can't see the image? [We can create an account for you!](#)

[Create account](#)

[Find out more about logging in.](#)

Privacy policy About Wikipedia Disclaimers

WIKIMEDIA project Powered by MediaWiki

# Editing a page

- Wiki mark-up into the textbox widget
- Summary of your edit into text widget
- The text you submit is irrevocably released under the GFDL and CC-BY-SA-3.0 licenses

WIKIPEDIA  
The Free Encyclopedia

[Main page](#)  
[Contents](#)  
[Featured content](#)  
[Current events](#)  
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Polypompolv Talk Sandbox Preferences Watchlist Contributions Log out

Page Discussion **Edit** View history Search

## Editing Neocallimastix

Content that [violates any copyrights](#) will be deleted. Encyclopedic content must be [verifiable](#). Work submitted to Wikipedia can be edited, used, and redistributed—by anyone—subject to [certain terms and conditions](#).

**Wiki mark-up box**

```
{{Automatic taxobox
| authority = Vavra & Joyon ex I.B. Heath<ref>{{cite journal |author=Heath IB, Bauchop T, Skipp RA. |year=1983 |title=Assignment of the rumen anaerobe ''Neocallimastix frontalis'' to the Spizellomycetales (Chytridiomycetes) on the basis of its polyflagellate zoospore ultrastructure |journal=Canadian Journal of Botany |volume=61 |issue=1 |pages=295-307 |url= |doi= |pmid= |pmc= }}</ref>
| type_species = ''Neocallimastix frontalis''
| type_species_authority = (R.A. Braune) Vavra & Joyon ex I.B. Heath
| subdivision_ranks = Species
| subdivision = ''N. frontalis''<br>
''N. hurleyensis''<br>
''N. joyoni''<br>
''N. patriciarum''<br>
''N. variabilis''
}}
'''Neocallimastix''' is a [[genus]] of [[fungi]] within the [[Neocallimastigaceae]] family.

==References==
{{reflist}}

==External links==
* '''[[http://www.indexfungorum.org/Names/genusrecord.asp?RecordID=25486|Neocallimastix]]''' at [[Index Fungorum]]
```

Insert  Sign your posts on talk pages: ~~~~ Cite your sources: <ref></ref>

**Edit summary box**

Summary:

☐ This is a minor edit ([what's this?](#)) ☐ Watch this page

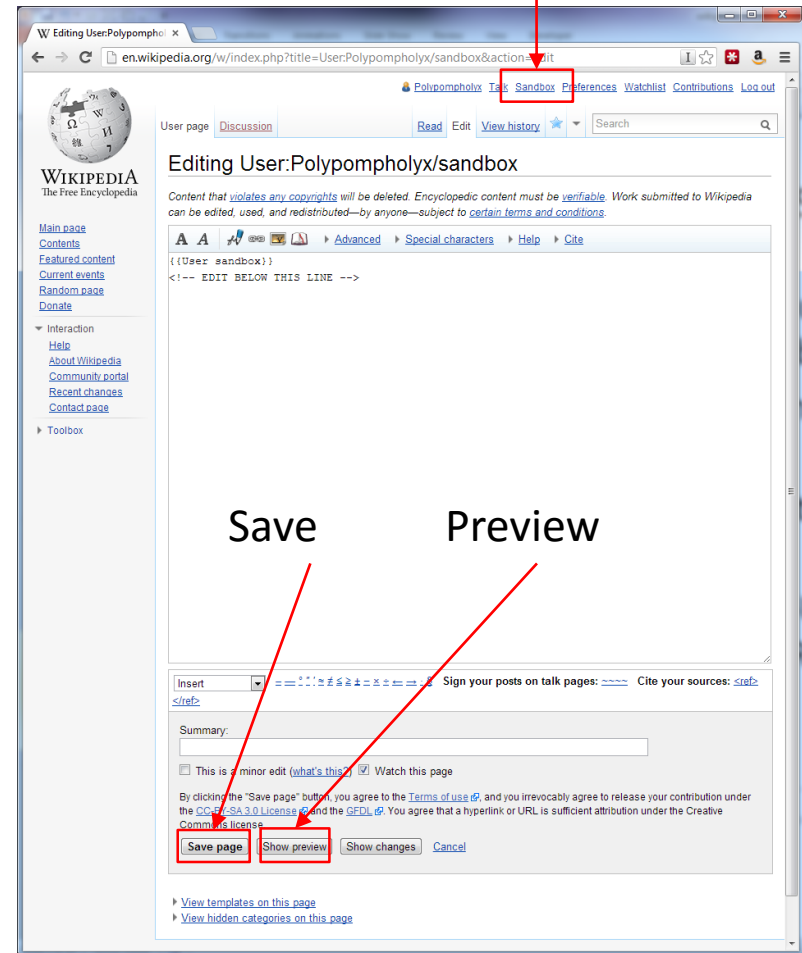
By clicking the "Save page" button, you agree to the [Terms of use](#), and you irrevocably agree to release your contribution under the [CC-BY-SA 3.0 license](#) and the [GFDL](#). You agree that a hyperlink or URL is sufficient attribution under the Creative Commons license.

► [View templates on this page](#)  
► [View hidden categories on this page](#)

# Using your sandbox

- Create draft of article in your sandbox
- Use Preview when editing live pages
- History updated with each Save
- There is no back-up except the history
  - Save regularly!

Open sandbox



# Basic article layout should follow the manual of style

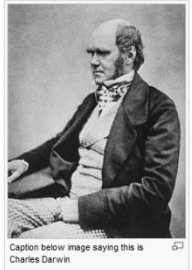
- Article title
- Lead section
  - `'''First mention of title'''` in leader intro should be **bold**
- Sections
  - `==Section==`
  - Subsections
    - `===Subsection===`
- References
  - `==References==`
  - `{{Reflist}}`
- External links
  - `==External links==`
  - `* [http://example.com/link Text]`
  - `* [http://example.com/foobar Blah]`



# Wiki mark-up for text formatting

Mark-up*	Result
<code>==Section heading==</code>	<u>Section heading</u>
<code>===Subsection heading===</code>	<b>Subsection heading</b>
<code>'''Something bold'''</code>	<b>Something bold</b>
<code>''Latin name in italics''</code>	<i>Latin name in italics</i>
<code>blank line</code>	(paragraph break)
<code>* unordered list item</code>	• unordered list item
<code># ordered list item</code>	1. ordered list item
<code>H&lt;sub&gt;2&lt;/sub&gt;</code>	H <sub>2</sub>
<code>&lt;sup&gt;4&lt;/sup&gt;He</code>	<sup>4</sup> He
<code>&amp;alpha;</code>	α

# Wiki mark-up for linking and images

Mark-up	Example	Result
<pre>[[internal_link]]    ...or... [[internal link]]</pre>	<pre>[[Drosera_aliciae]]</pre>	<a href="#">Drosera aliciae</a> Underscores are optional
<pre>[[internal_link Text for link]]</pre>	<pre>[[Drosera_aliciae Alice sundew]]</pre>	<a href="#">Alice sundew</a> Note double braces, pipe
<pre>[http://example.com/external_link Text for link]</pre>	<pre>[http://www.imperial.ac.uk Imperial College]</pre>	<a href="#">Imperial college</a> Note single braces, no pipe
<pre>[[File:image.jpg   200px   thumb   Description of the image for the visually impaired]]</pre>	<pre>[[File:Charles_Darwin_seated.jpg   200px   thumb   Darwin seated facing left, no beard]]</pre>	Thumb (not compulsory!) floats right by default  Public domain image



# Wiki mark-up for references\*

Oceania has always been at war with Eastasia

```
<ref name="Goldstein1984">
```

```
{{Cite journal | author=Goldstein E | title=The theory and  
practice of oligarchical collectivism | journal=[[Journal  
of the Brotherhood]] | volume=1 | year=1984 | pages=1-666  
| doi=mini.luv/eablair.1949 }}
```

```
</ref>
```

==References==

```
{{Reflist}}
```

Oceania has always been at war with Eastasia<sup>[1]</sup>

## References

---

- <sup>↑</sup> Goldstein E (1984). "The theory and practice of oligarchical collectivism". *Journal of the Brotherhood* 1: 1-666. doi:[mini.luv/eablair.1949](#) [↗](#).

# Replicate the page below

[Leader]

**Bold**

**Subscripts**

**Internal link to "Wood preservation"**

The organochlorine PCP (pentachlorophenol, C<sub>6</sub>Cl<sub>5</sub>OH) is a [wood preservative](#) biocide.

Contents [\[hide\]](#)

[1 Structure](#)

[1.1 Degradation](#)

[2 References](#)

[3 External links](#)

["Contents" is added automagically]

**Heading**

## Structure

[\[edit\]](#)

PCP is a polychlorinated aromatic:

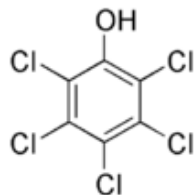


Image link to "Pentachlorophenol-structure.png"

**Subheading**

## Degradation

**Italics**

**Internal link (no article)**

[\[edit\]](#)

PCP is degraded by some bacteria, including *Sphingobacterium chlorophenolicum*<sup>[1]</sup>

PCP → TCHQ → TriCHQ → DCHQ → 2,4-dichloro-3-hydroxy-*cis,cis*-muconic semialdehyde

**Heading**

## References

**HTML entity right-arrows**

[\[edit\]](#)

- <sup>↑</sup> Copley SD (2000). "Evolution of a metabolic pathway for degradation of a toxic xenobiotic: the patchwork approach". *Trends in Biochemical Sciences* **25**: 261-265. doi:10.1016/S0968-0004(00)01562-0 [↗](#)

**Heading**

## External links

[\[edit\]](#)

**Bullets**

- [US EPA: pentachlorophenol in drinking water](#) [↗](#)

"References" formatted automagically, but you need to *create* the reference in the body-text

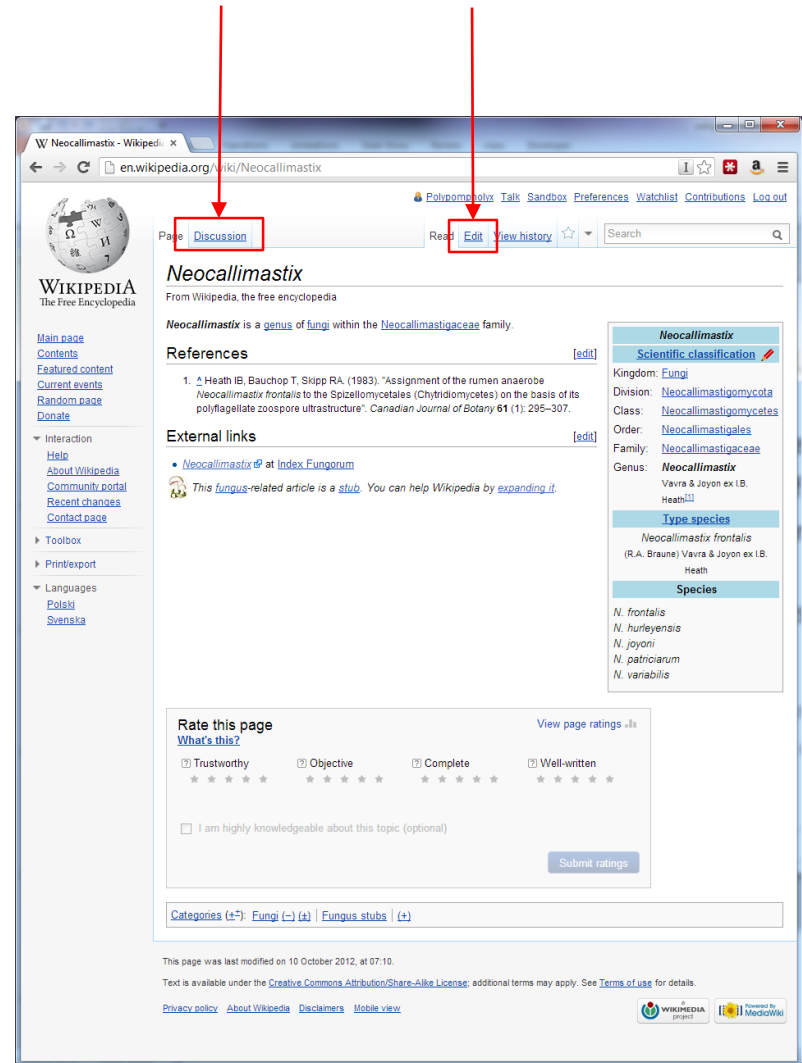
**External link to** <http://water.epa.gov/drink/contaminants/basicinformation/pentachlorophenol.cfm>

# Coffee time!

# Selecting a page to edit for your coursework

- Start from a stub
  - [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Biology\\_stubs](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Biology_stubs)
  - [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Enzyme\\_stubs](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Enzyme_stubs)
  - [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Plant\\_stubs](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Plant_stubs)
- ...or improve a pre-existing article
  - <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/User:Polypompholyx>
  - [Active site](#)
  - [Basal body](#)
  - [Cell type](#)
  - [Dikaryon](#)
  - [Gas exchange](#)
  - [Genetics of maize](#)
  - [Poribacteria](#)
  - [Retrotransposon](#)
  - [Mixed acid fermentation](#)
  - [Light-harvesting complex](#)
- Approve intended page with me via BlackBoard

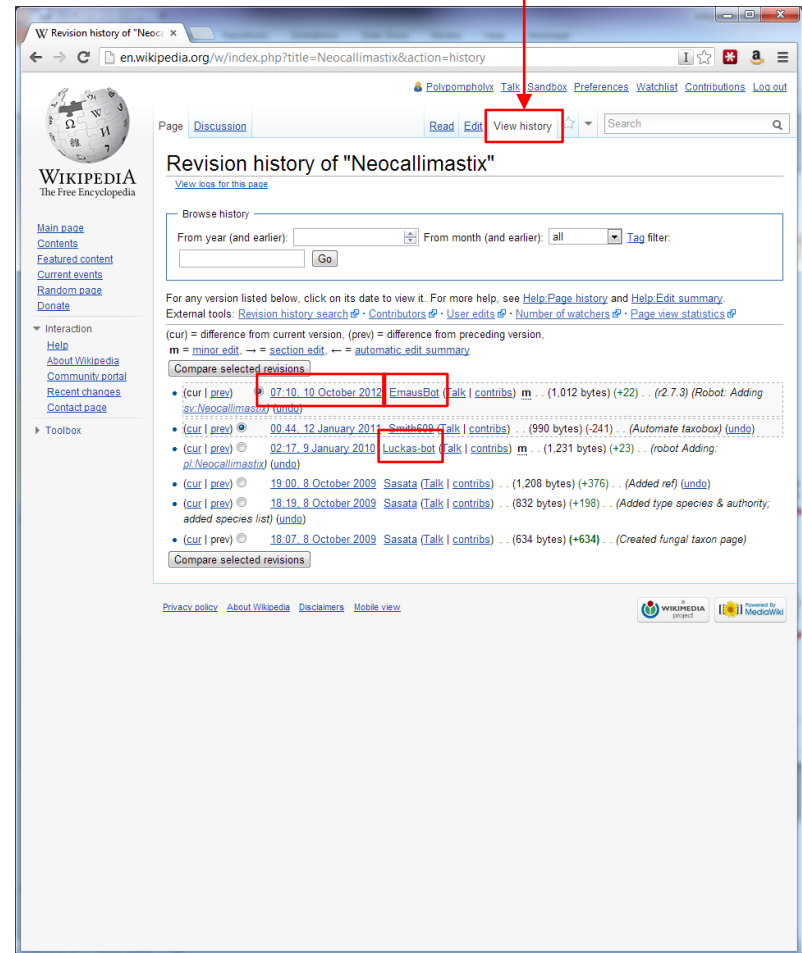
Discussion tab   Edit tab



# Scan the history

- Choose an article that is not being heavily edited by others already
- Scan through past edits
- Mostly bots?  
[automated edits]
- Quiet?

View history tab



# Discuss your edit before starting

- Read the discussion (talk) page
- Edit the talk page ('be civil')

– State you plan on editing it

```
{{Educational assignment|  
date=2015-03-22|  
link=User:Polypompholyx}}
```

– Introduce yourself

– Sign off your introduction

~~~~~

- This inserts...

```
Username (talk) datetime
```



# Uploading your own images

- Account must be 4 days old
- Must have committed 10 edits
- Find 10 typos to correct!

Select file on local drive

Give the file a descriptive name:  
"70S ribosome in elongation phase  
(Pymol rendering)" not  
"ribosome"

Summary: author, source, etc

Licence

The screenshot shows the Wikipedia 'Special:Upload' page. Red boxes and arrows highlight the following elements:

- Source file:** A red box around the 'Choose File' button, with an arrow pointing to the text 'Select file on local drive'.
- File description:** A red box around the 'Destination' and 'Summary' fields, with an arrow pointing to the text 'Give the file a descriptive name: "70S ribosome in elongation phase (Pymol rendering)" not "ribosome"'. The 'Summary' field is also highlighted with a red box and an arrow pointing to the text 'Summary: author, source, etc'.
- Licensing:** A red box around the 'License' dropdown menu, with an arrow pointing to the text 'Licence'.

The page also includes a sidebar with navigation links (Main page, Contents, Featured content, Current events, Random page, Donate) and a 'Toolbox' section. The main content area provides instructions on how to use the upload form and lists permitted file types (png, gif, jpg, jpeg, xcf, pdf, mid, ogg, ogv, svg, djvu, tiff, tif, ogg, oga, webm).

# Image licensing should be CC-BY-SA

- Images must be
  - Public domain, or
  - Your OWN licensed work



| License               | Details                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Creative Commons (CC) | Non-profit organisation offering many standardised licenses that allow you to reserve some rights, but to allow the public to use and share your work.                                    |
| Attribution (BY)      | Licensees may copy, distribute, display and perform the work and make derivative works based on it only if they give the author or licensor the credits in the manner specified by these. |
| Share-Alike (SA)      | Licensees may distribute derivative works only under a license identical to the license that governs the original work. (See also copyleft)                                               |



# Acceptable images

## OK

- Wikimedia Commons
- Self-penned/photographed images
- SVGs made with Inkscape
- PNGs made using PowerPoint
- Pymol-generated images from RCSB PDB files (but cite PDB author/paper)
- United States Government (NASA, CDC, *etc*) – images are generally public domain

## Not OK

- Copyrighted images
- Images from journals or books
- Slavish copies of images from journals or books



<http://commons.wikimedia.org>  
<http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:BlankMap-World6.svg>  
<http://www.rcsb.org/pdb/home/home.do>  
<http://inkscape.org/>

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Ant24788@Wikimedia

# Other standard kit



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- There are standard syntaxes for:
  - Tables
  - Phylogenies
  - Taxonomy (taxoboxes)
  - Proteins (protein boxes)
  - *Etc.*

# Caveat editor

- WikiProjects
  - Beware toe-treading
  - Conform to applicable WikiProject standards (esp. Medicine)
- Plagiarism
  - You MUST NOT plagiarise your own essays
  - DO NOT choose the topic of your final-year dissertation
  - We will use TurnItIn on articles
- Commit your edit whilst logged in
  - Otherwise it'll be anonymous!



*WikiProject Carnivorous plants* is within the scope of WikiProject Carnivorous plants, an attempt to better organise information in articles related to [carnivorous plants](#). For more information, visit the **project page**.

[NA](#)

This page does not require a rating on the project's [quality scale](#).



This page is supported by [WikiProject Plants](#).

<sup>1</sup>**Restriction enzyme, Restriction endonuclease** Restriction enzyme is an enzyme that cut nucleic acid at specific restriction site to produce restriction fragments. In the bacteria, to protect it-self from infections by viruses, there is a system called Restriction-modification which is the bacterium on its own, modifies certain nucleotides in specific sequences of DNA by adding a methyl group catalyzed by a modification methylase. Type II restriction endonuclease is a

# Judge the audience of your article appropriately

- You need to judge how to pitch it
- You are *not* writing a UG essay
- Who is likely to Google/read it?
- General science audience is a default
- Quality links may be more important than excruciating detail

# Assessment

- Criteria on Blackboard
- Compare before and after
- Quantity of material added
- Quality of final product
  - Scientific accuracy
  - Standards conformity
  - Accessibility to a lay audience

|                 | Abbreviated criteria                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Very substantial contribution (incl. appropriate licensed media) added; accurate, relevant & complete, but still a good encyclopaedic exposition for a lay audience; conforms to all applicable Wikipedia standards. |
| 2A              | Very substantial contribution (incl. appropriate licensed media) added; accurate, relevant & complete, and lead section at least is a suitable for a lay audience; conforms to NPOV, NOR, verifiability standards.   |
| 2B              | Substantial contribution; accurate & relevant, but article and lead may be excessively technical for a lay audience; largely conforms to NPOV, NOR, verifiability standards.                                         |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Some contribution; but too brief, inaccurate, inaccessible or irrelevant to be encyclopaedic; largely conforms to NPOV, NOR, verifiability standards.                                                                |
| Fail            | Little contribution and/or significantly fails to meet NPOV, NOR and verifiability standards.                                                                                                                        |

# Timetable for submissions

- Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March (1300)
  - Confirm you want to do WP for the skills coursework
  - Account name
  - Intended article
  - Approached ‘expert’ marker
  - *via* BB quiz
- Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March (1700)
  - Must commit edit to Wikipedia by this deadline
  - Use sandbox to experiment
  - Easier to submit final edit as one large change (esp. if stub), but incremental edits are OK (and may be preferable)

# Phylogeny syntax

```
{{clade
  |{{clade
    |1=[[moss]]
    |2={{clade
      |1=[[fern]]
      |2={{clade
        |1=[[pine]]
        |2=[[grass]]
      }}
    }}
  }}
}}
```

# Taxobox syntax

```
{{Taxobox
| image = Drosera aliciae.jpg
| image_alt          = Alice sundew
| image_caption      = Alice sundew
| regnum = [[Plant]]ae
| unranked_divisio = [[Angiosperms]]
| unranked_classis = [[Eudicots]]
| unranked_ordo = [[Core eudicots]]
| ordo = [[Caryophyllales]]
| familia = [[Droseraceae]]
| genus = ''[[Drosera]]''
| species = ''''D. aliciae''''
| binomial = ''Drosera aliciae''
| binomial_authority = [[R.Hamet]] (1905)
}}
```