Major Assignment #3:
SDG6 Wikipedia Small Group Edit and Opinion Paper

streams push through
layers of dirt
as veins embrace waters and soil
growing the life blood of Our Mother
the Earth

— K. Dawn Martin, Six Nations of the Grand River

Overview

The United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) were constructed to address global crises including poverty, inequality, climate, environmental degradation, and peace and justice. SDG6 sees that too many people still lack access to safe water supplies and sanitation facilities. Through your contribution of knowledge to two public online audiences, you will accelerate progress on securing access to water and sanitation for all.

In small groups, you will perform research on a topic of your choice related to the UN SDG #6 and edit a Wikipedia article, which you will complete in designated steps over the remainder of the semester. You will also submit an opinion paper on a topic related to your small group Wikipedia edit.

Purpose

This project provides you an opportunity to grow as a global citizen through increasing access to clean water and sanitation and developing your effectiveness as a writer. It is about communicating, convincing, and sharing with others about the importance of SDG6 by contributing to two online venues.

Connection to Course Learning Objectives

- Contribute scholarship to urgent socio-environmental issues related to water and sanitation that affect citizens of the world.
- Analyze texts in a variety of genres and disciplines, identifying main ideas and details, drawing inferences and conclusions, and differentiating between neutral and persuasive rhetorical moves.
- Revise content, organization, and language according to two different sets of purposes, audiences, and formats through multiple drafts.
- Evaluate and provide feedback among peers.
- Expand competence in and understanding of digital literacy.

Wikipedia Group Edit

In small groups, you will work collaboratively to create article edits according to Wikipedia training modules and through in-class practice. With teamwork, maximize everyone's strengths, compensate for each other's weaknesses, and give more than you get. Also, conquer and divide as you proceed through the project.

Purpose and Audience

The purpose of this project is to expand your own awareness of this critical global issue, inform your classmates about your topic, and provide access to your research through the global Wikipedia platform. Through such scholarship and public contribution, this project aims to support and make headway on this UN goal of sustainable development in water and sanitation.

Engaging in Wikipedia provides an opportunity to write for a global audience of anyone who has access to the Internet. Wikipedia provides free content "anyone can use, edit, and distribute" ("Wikipedia: Five Pillars") in an encyclopedic format.

Task

1. Choose an article that meets the following criteria:
   - Article's quality rating "important" and C-class to ensure that it is in need of further development
   - Article is of interest to you (either academically as a topic related to your major, or more personally)
   - Article is on a topic notable enough that relevant published research is available (i.e., find at least 5 reputable sources [journal articles, UN documents, academic books, etc] to draw from).

2. Evaluate the article to determine how it could be improved and what content could be added.

3. Submit a short (150-300 words) proposal in which you do the following:
   - Identify specific content that could be added to your article
   - Identify other improvements and/or revisions that could be made to the article
   - Locate and make a list of at least 5 secondary sources you plan to use in the development of your article in a group sandbox. You should make a list of these sources with as much citation information as you can find (so you'll be ready to add them to your article)

4. Edit approved article collaboratively according to Wikipedia conventions.
   - Style: Neutral, third person, objective, easy-to-understand
   - Well-sourced: Uses secondary sources/references to back up knowledge claims
   - Structure: Consistent with Wikipedia article conventions (lead, section headings, etc.)

- Editorial contributions should make substantive improvements to the article: between 200-300 words, citations for each concept, copyedits, links, organizational improvements, and photos if appropriate.

5. Groups will present their article edits to the class (visuals are encouraged).
- talk about conversations within the Wikipedia community
- share your group process
- showcase your contributions

Wikipedia Sample Articles to Edit

- SDG6
- Rainwater Harvesting
- Water Issues in Developing Countries
- Menstrual Hygiene Management
- Water Scarcity in Africa
- Pollution of the Ganges
- Yamuna (River in India)
- Water Supply
- Sustainable Sanitation
- Water Quality
- Water Supply and Sanitation in Costa Rica

- Water Treatment
- World Toilet Day
- Human Right to Water and Sanitation
- Reuse of Excreta
- Hygiene
- Waterborne Diseases
- Water Privatization
- Swachh Bharat Mission
- Recycling by Product
- Greywater
- Compost
- Water Supply and Sanitation in Cuba

Consilience Opinion Paper

Beginning with the sources you used in your Wikipedia edit, craft an academic opinion paper on a specific topic related to SDG6, bringing your own critical thinking to this issue. Along the way:
1. Review the resources from your Wikipedia edit article
2. Formulate a problem
3. Determine additional and different resources for your opinion piece
4. Complete a literature review matrix
5. Develop a thesis
6. Brainstorm with classmates, Writing Center, and me
7. Review *Consilience Journal* to note stylistic conventions
8. Draft/submit paper targeting the *Consilience* Opinion section audience
9. Complete peer review
10. Revise, edit, and submit to Dropbox

Audience

is dedicated to promoting interdisciplinary dialogue on sustainable development. It aims to bring students, researchers, professors, and practitioners from a variety of disciplines and geographical regions in direct conversation with each other through an online, open access, academically rigorous medium. You will write an Opinion piece (see Brightspace for examples) designed to offer a compelling argument regarding a controversial topic in sustainable development. You may wish to include photographs and figures to illustrate your claims. Although submitting your paper to the journal is not a course requirement, you are encouraged to do so. Whether you choose to submit or not, treat the assignment as if you plan on submitting your paper for publication.

Task

The researched opinion paper is 2700-4000 words, APA-style. Dive deep into a narrow topic within your group's Wikipedia article topic. To inform your paper, analyze published opinion papers in *Consilience: The Journal of Sustainable Development*. The **introduction** should capture your readers' interest in the problem or question you address in the paper, explaining why it is a problem and its importance. The **body** consists of a persuasive answer to the question you pose in the introduction. Include relevant analysis of the literature, argumentation, and evidence through intertextual synthesis. Include a **conclusion** that may call for further research.

Submit: Draft two weeks prior to Final; Final due the last day of class.

Sample Opinion Statements and Topics

- XXX is/is not a way to ensure the availability of water for the people of XYZ
- XXX is/is not a way to ensure availability of sanitation for the people of XYZ
- XYZ can reduce hazardous chemicals/substances in XXX
- XYZ is a way to reduce water pollution of XYZ water body
- XYZ can increase recycling and reuse of XXX product/material
- XYZ can increase cooperation at transboundary waterways
- XYZ can help protect/restore mountain, forest, wetland, river and lake water-related ecosystems
- Select a country and discuss the complexities of women and water supply. Argue for the causes of the issue OR the solution to the problem
- Causes and solutions to environmental racism
- Rainwater Harvesting is/is not a viable solution to water access in XYZ.
- Children and water collection: issues (causes & solutions) in XYZ
- Describe the problem of water involved in the life cycle (production through decomposition) of a product (e.g., silk vs. cotton vs. polyester clothing) or a food (e.g., beef, corn, soy, wheat, etc.) and provide solutions.
- Compare the risks and benefits to reuse of excreta in agricultural fertilization
- Discuss causes/solutions to waterborne disease(s).

- Some cultures value/embrace open defecation. Argue for or against its global implementation.
- Issues of open defecation in XYZ
- Describe the problem of pollution of the XYZ River. Determine what you believe are the primary causes of the problem, create an argument, and provide evidence to support.
- Describe the problem of pollution of the XYZ River and argue for a specific solution to the problem.
- Discuss how to increase global cooperation for issues such as desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling, and reuse technologies
- Expose systemic inequities of access to water and sanitation in a specific location or as a global issue.
- Argue how local communities can engage in water and sanitation access