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Wiki Reflection

I think this was a really interesting project, because it allowed us to compose for a public space. I use Wikipedia often but have never contributed any material, so it was definitely a learning experience. It's so easy to create content and to edit the page, even easier than I thought it would be. However, this means it's just as easy for someone else to revise/delete your work. My group faced several obstacles – for example, some of our content was almost immediately flagged for “conflict of interest,” and I can see now how that might have been warranted. We are FSU students and we've chosen to write about our own majors / areas of study, which each of us is partial to. After our work was removed for “advertisement-like text” we were careful to remain unbiased and to adopt neutral viewpoints.

Even so, a message we received explained that we might be blocked, not only due to our promotional tone but because we didn't have credibility – this user took notice of the fact that we'd “never posted at any talk page” and warned us that we might first “propose changes on a talk page and wait for others to comment.” Of course, we didn't really have time for that, but I thought it was a helpful comment because he gave us a suggestion for gaining credibility and for interacting with other contributors in the Wiki community.

When I posted my section, a summary/description of the Editing, Writing, Media major and an outline of the course requirements, my work was taken down by a user who believed my content was “more suited to a prospectus.” In this case, I learned that it's really crucial to complete the “edit summary” every time you make changes, because otherwise I wouldn't have understood why this user chose to remove my content.

Overall, I enjoyed the project even though it was frustrated to have our work removed. I think I've learned a good bit about composing for Wikipedia and hope to apply it in the future.