

# Wikis

A way to collaborate over distance on documents/group projects or distribute and collect feedback on topics; also a way for students to “publish” their own thoughts and materials/Learning Communities concept.



## Problems addressed:

- Improve student critical thinking and writing skills.
- Gathering feedback from students or getting responses from everyone in class.
- Organize materials like videos, podcast, pictures, links or text you want each student to have access to.
- Students can use wikis to collaborate on group projects from a distance.
- Used as a classroom web site where each student has a role in contributing some content to the site.
- Students could use a wiki as their own electronic portfolio of work/assignments they have created.

## Wiki Applications

<http://sites.google.com>

<http://www.pbwiki.com>

<http://www.wikispaces.com>

## Examples:

At HCC:

AQIP Systems Portfolio Category One

<http://hccportfoliocategory1.wikispaces.com>

Other Examples:

Wikipedia

<http://www.wikipedia.com>

## Problems with Wikis

1. Just like Blogs, wikis can contain inaccurate information and shouldn't be used as a primary source of information for students. Information contained in a blog isn't usually subjected to any type of editorial/publishing standards.
2. Creating Pages and Moderating a wiki takes a time commitment.
3. Digital Divide issues (does each student have internet access, should class time be devoted to contributing to the blog, etc).
4. That information is out there in the public for all to see (no firewall/security) generally most wikis for free are public (private wikis cost a subscription price).
5. No Review before modification unlike blogs (no moderating).

## What are the different levels of privacy on Wikispaces?

Pages of Wikispaces can be public or protected (free) and private (for a fee)

Public pages can be viewed and edited by anyone

Protected pages can be viewed by anyone but edited only by those you invite

Private pages are pages where only members of the space can view and edit pages

## What are the different user types on Wikispaces?

### **A Guest:**

A guest is anyone who is visiting Wikispaces.com but who has not signed in to a user account. Guests can view all public and protected spaces. They can also edit pages on public spaces but not create new pages. Guests can read, but not post to, discussion pages.

### **A User Account:**

Anyone logged in to a user account on Wikispaces.com can view all public and protected spaces on the site. They can edit and create pages in public spaces as well as post to the discussion pages in those spaces.

### **A Member:**

When a user account is added to a space, they become a member of that space. They can then view and edit the space whether it is public, protected, or private. Members of a space are also able to upload images and files to that space. Any member of a space can be promoted, by the organizer, to be a fellow organizer of that space.

### **An Organizer:**

The organizer of a space has administrative access to that space. They can invite people to be members, promote members to be organizers of the space, approve requests to join the space, delete pages, upgrade or delete the space, determine whether a space is public, protected, or private, change the look and feel of the space, and manage the subscription of that space. The creator of the space is an organizer with the ability to demote other organizers to the level of member.

