Tips and Ideas for Using Wikis in Teaching

Use cases and best practices

2. Lab book/Notebook: Use wikis to synthesize multiple points of view and generate new ideas.
3. Collaborative Writing: Instructors and students can use wikis as a collaboration tool, both synchronously and asynchronously. (Caution: this could result in an Edit war.)
4. Knowledge Base: Wikis allow groups to develop content-specific and/or problem-based web sites. For example, web sites for communities of practice, web sites for collecting and synthesizing terminology or ideas across disciplines; web sites for training materials produced by students, faculty or staff members, and/or subject experts.
5. Encyclopedia class projects: References, resources, instructions, manuals, glossaries, and such.
6. Bibliographic class or group projects: Students could develop websites, gather images, and annotate.
7. Handbooks or texbooks.
8. Non-specified authorship or protected documents.

Wikis may complicate the evaluation of writing

Here are some considerations:

1. Page History reflects actual evolution of page content. You might let students compare texts of the versions, identify their own editing progression, consider the quality of the feedback they received and/or posted, and give them time for reflection of the intellectual depth of dialogue.
2. Open authoring (autonomy and non-authority) does not necessarily lead to the destruction, modification or copying of others' work.
3. Have clear guidelines for evaluation. Make your standards for acceptable collaboration as clear as possible.

Some Sample Wikis in Teaching

Project integration work:

- Managing a long-term design process
- Student driven-puzzle creation
- Problem solving
- Publishing public critique or commentaries/critiques on project integration work
- Cross class/courses projects (interdisciplinary projects)

E-Learning:

A wiki project to enhance online teaching and learning experience.

Bottom-up structured and collaborative learning:

Wikis are used as potential community building tools (Leuf & Cunningham, 2001) that students create documents and post comments as a group, such as Georgia Tech wiki (CoWeb).