



Image by Giulia Forsythe

## Wikipedia Assignment: Developing Graduate Student Outcomes and Employability Skills

# Assignment Development

Student collaboration using online platforms (Mike Wesch, 2007/2010)

Faculty asserted assignments were much stronger since they had stopped allowing students to use Wikipedia.

Graduate orientation reminder that in graduate school, students were required to do more than use existing knowledge: they must create new knowledge.

Result was a new assignment for an M.Ed. intake course.



2018-  
2019

Early work (see Simmons, 2013) suggested far more metacognitive learning was going on than I had anticipated

Students were asked to consider to what extent this assignment develops GDLEs and *Employability Skills* and make suggestions

Research took place in Fall 2018 term, online midterm, with in-class follow up end of term; Data from 2019 still being analyzed.

# Recommended Assignment Principles

Critical thinking  
Praxis  
Research reflection  
Metacognition  
Public application



Critically research, edit, justify ideas based on references and evidence



Connects research to practice



Research skills, critical thinking, and writing, and reflecting on previous readings help one to learn how to analyse peer [reviewed] articles for further research



Become aware of self/thoughts which is transferable to courses/ assignments related to challenging assumptions



Using our knowledge to educate others in a community that was not academia - meaning that we had to create edits that could be understood by the general public.

# Consolidating Learning



Students report they are using and developing skills in all areas



However, students conceptualize the skills in very different ways – i.e., safety, working with others



Students ARE developing both graduate outcomes and job-related skills – but don't necessarily see them as such.



Inserting opportunities for metacognition reflection can help!

Questions?  
Want to  
know more?

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- Simmons, N. (2013). Inquiry, critique, and dissemination of knowledge: Graduate students contributing to Wikipedia. *Collected Essays on Learning and Teaching*, 6.
- Wesch, M. (2010). *STLHE annual conference 2010: Opening plenary*. Ryecast, Ryerson University. Available at <https://ryecast.ryerson.ca/21/watch/597.aspx>