

Advocate

Activity #2 Wikigeeks

Purpose

WikiGeeks is a realtime race played within Wikipedia.org that gives participants a topic, asks them to choose a starting page, and then race to be the first participant to reach a revealed Wikipedia page only using hyperlinks.

- pages in Wikipedia.
- **CREATE** Wikipedia pages that improve information in the platform.

Time

30 to 45 Minutes

Learning Goals

- **EXPLORE** how different topics relate to one another.
- **LEARN** how content is mapped online.
- **LEARN** about the hyperlinking on information online.
- **NAVIGATE** the ecosystem of hyperlinked

Supplies

- A computer and/or projector
- Mobile devices for every participant or every other participant
- Ability to split into teams depending on size of the group

Introductory Activity Questions

- **HOW CAN USERS NAVIGATE HYPERLINKED CONTENT AND UNDERSTAND HOW IT IS DIGITALLY MAPPED AND CONNECTED ONLINE?**
- **HOW DO INTERNET USERS NAVIGATE WIKIPEDIA TO FIND INFORMATION ON AN UNFAMILIAR TOPIC AND LEARN NEW INSIGHTS ALONG THE WAY?**

- **WHAT ARE THE POSITIVES AND NEGATIVES OF CROWDSOURCED KNOWLEDGE?**

Instructions

- 1 At the start of the round, the topic is announced (e.g. Civic History).
- 2 All participants choose to any page on Wikipedia they want to start at by typing in the name of an article. This page becomes their start page for the round. They should choose their start page based on its likelihood to have good connections to other pages in the sphere of the topic.
- 3 Once everyone has navigated to a page of their choice, the destination page (e.g. Berlin Wall) is revealed. Participants now must navigate to the destination page using only links embedded within articles.
- 4 Participants are ranked according to who got to the end goal first, second, and third. Once third place spot is fulfilled or the timer is up, the round is over. If no participants reach the goal before time is up, the first participant to do so is the sole winner of that round.
- 5 Points are scored by being among the top three participants who reach the goal. Points are also awarded based on how many clicks it took for the participant to reach their goal. The less clicks, the more points!
- 6 After each round, the game shows the first, second, and third place participants' pathways from their starting point through to the end goal.

Debrief

Was the content neutral?

Wikipedia articles and other encyclopedic content are generally written from a neutral point of view, representing significant views fairly, proportionately and without bias. Was this true in the participants' navigation?

How can the credibility of Wikipedia content be verified?

Verifiability means that people reading and editing the encyclopedia can check that information comes from a reliable source.

Do any of the articles contain any new analyses of published material that serves to advance a position not clearly advanced by the sources?

Wikipedia does not publish original thought: all material must be attributable to a reliable, published source. How does this uphold in your experience navigating the platform?

How does the need to navigate information quickly affect your ability to retain knowledge?

The distraction of hyperlinks can impact how information is absorbed.

How can this experience influence perceptions of Wikipedia?

Crowd-funded content can be credible, and it's important to see Wikipedia as a model for people-powered knowledge development.