

Wordpress for Web Development: Lab 3

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Create a category and display posts from only that category

There can be only one “posts” page on a WordPress website, but how would you create multiple pages that filter your posts by one or more categories?

The first step is to create a new category:

Categories

Screen Options ▾ Help ▾

Search Categories

Bulk Actions ▾ Apply 4 items

<input type="checkbox"/> Name	Description	Slug	Count
<input type="checkbox"/> Off the Beaten Path	—	off-the-beaten-path	6
<input type="checkbox"/> Portfolio	—	portfolio	3
<input type="checkbox"/> Travel Stories	—	travel-stories	6

Bulk Actions ▾ Apply 4 items

Note:
Deleting a category does not delete the posts in that category. Instead, posts that were only assigned to the deleted category are set to the category **Off the Beaten Path**.
Categories can be selectively converted to tags using the [category to tag converter](#).

Dashboard

Posts

All Posts

Add New

Categories

Tags

Portfolios

Media

Pages

Comments

Contact

Appearance

Plugins

Users

Tools

Settings

Facebook Feed

MapPress

Collapse menu

Add New Category

Name

My Category

The name is how it appears on your site.

Slug

my-category

The “slug” is the URL-friendly version of the name. It is usually all lowercase and contains only letters, numbers, and hyphens.

Parent Category

None

Categories, unlike tags, can have a hierarchy. You might have a Jazz category, and under that have children categories for Bebop and Big Band. Totally optional.

Description

This category is all mine!

The description is not prominent by default; however, some themes may show it.

Add New Category

Next assign the category to some posts:

Open the index.php page template and save it as “**page-my_category.php.**”

Create a new page template inside this new page using the “Template Name” constructor inside php comments at the top of the page:

```
<?php /* Template Name: My Category Template */ ?>

<?php get_header(); ?>

<section id="container"> <!-- Holds content & sidebar -->

<?php if (have_posts()) : while (have_posts()) : the_post(); ?>

<!-- The rest of the page continues below -->
```

Create a new variable named `$my_cat` and set it as a new `WP_Query()`.

- Take note of the “\$” character in front of the variable name. This is required in PHP.
- If a variable name is made up of multiple words, either remove all spaces or bridge words together with an underscore “_” character.

```
<?php /* Template Name: My Category Template */ ?>

<?php get_header(); ?>

<section id="container"> <!-- Holds content & sidebar -->

$my_cat = new WP_Query();

<?php if (have_posts()) : while (have_posts()) : the_post(); ?>

<!-- The rest of the page continues below -->
```

Set the new `$my_cat` Query to take on the properties of `have_posts()` in all three parts of the opening loop using the “->” operator:

```
<?php $my_cat = new WP_Query();

if ( $my_cat->have_posts() ) :
while ( $my_cat->have_posts() ) : $my_cat->the_post(); ?>

<!-- The rest of the page continues below -->
```

We need to define what the `WP_Query()` searches for. We will use a variable named `$args` and set it as an array to hold some of the built-in search settings inside `WP_Query()`.

The `"=>"` operator is an associative operator. It puts the "value" on it's right into the `WP_Query()` property on its left.

```
<?php $args = array(
    'post_type'      => 'post',
    'post_status'    => 'publish',
    'category_name'  => '', // <- the category slug goes here
    'posts_per_page' => '6',
);

$my_cat = new WP_Query( $args );

if ( $my_cat->have_posts() ) :
while ( $my_cat->have_posts() ) : $my_cat->the_post(); ?>

<!-- The rest of the page continues below -->
```

The category name is what was set in the "slug" field when you created the category.

My Category

The name is how it appears on your site.

Slug

my-category

The "slug" is the URL-friendly version of the name. It is usually all lowercase and contains only letters, numbers, and hyphens.

The completed Query

```
<?php $args = array(
    'post_type'      => 'post',
    'post_status'    => 'publish',
    'category_name'  => 'my-category',
    'posts_per_page' => '6',
);

$my_cat = new WP_Query( $args );

if ( $my_cat->have_posts() ) :
while ( $my_cat->have_posts() ) : $my_cat->the_post(); ?>

<!-- The rest of the page continues below -->
```

On the next page, see the whole page template code.

```

<?php /* Template Name: My Category Template */ ?>

<?php get_header(); ?>

<section id="container"> <!-- Holds content & sidebar -->

<?php $args = array(
    'post_type'      => 'post',
    'post_status'    => 'publish',
    'category_name'  => 'my-category',
    'posts_per_page' => '6',
);

$my_cat = new WP_Query( $args );

if ( $my_cat->have_posts() ) :
while ( $my_cat->have_posts() ) : $my_cat->the_post(); ?>

    <section id="content"><!-- The main web content -->

        <h2 class="site-title"><?php the_title(); ?></h2>

        <?php the_content(); ?>

    </section> <!-- End of content -->

<?php endwhile; ?>
<?php else : ?>

<section id="content"><!-- The main web content -->

    <h2 class="site-title">Nothing Found</h2>
    <p>Couldn't find the content you were looking for</p>

</section> <!-- End of content -->

<?php endif; ?>

<?php get_sidebar(); ?>

<section id="container"> <!-- Holds content & sidebar -->

<?php get_footer(); ?>

```

In the WordPress dashboard, create a new page and select the “My Category Template” template. Name the page publish it and view the page to see your posts.

The screenshot shows the WordPress 'Add New Page' screen. The title 'My Category Page' is entered in the top text box. The right sidebar contains the 'Publish' section with 'Status: Draft' and 'Visibility: Public'. Below this, the 'Page Attributes' section is visible, where the 'Template' dropdown is set to 'My Category Template' and is highlighted with a red rectangle. The 'Order' field is set to 0. At the bottom, a status bar shows 'Word count: 0' and 'Draft saved at 10:46:52 pm.'

1. Publish the page
2. View the page