

MU4714E Wiki Assignment Information Sheet

The MU4714E group wiki assessment task (45 points possible) requires you to develop a textbook-like music history multimedia resource. The resource can be thought of as a textbook (a “wikitextbook”) and can focus on any aspect of the Middle Ages, Renaissance, or Baroque. You might, alternatively, wish to create an overview of one of these periods, relating the music of the period to the art, architecture, politics, etc. of that period. Your group wiki can have as many pages as you wish, and everyone in a group can create, edit, and delete content within the wiki. As a guide, your wiki’s text should contain no less than 2,500 words and no more than 3,000 words. You can begin working on this project any time from the Wednesday of semester Week 4, while the cut-off date for submissions to the wiki is Friday of Week 10.

Here’s a helpful checklist for your group to use during the course of the assignment:

- Is each member of your group adding content (text, images, links, and video) and making edits to the group’s wiki?
- Is each member of your group comfortable with having his/her content revised (and with revising content already posted) by others in the group, recognising that shared wiki pages are constantly changing?
- Have you worked out a process for solving disagreements (over, say, content, links and/or layout) that may arise as your group’s wiki evolves?
- Has every member of your group agreed to be responsible for
 - embedding interesting content (text, images, etc.) to make the group’s wiki more engaging?
 - inserting links to reliable external sources?
 - regularly checking the wiki’s text for readability?
 - ensuring that there are no spelling or grammatical errors in your final product?

Remember:

- Your wiki should be owned by all the members of your group, not just by individuals. Wikis are all about collaboration and knowledge building, and so the content of a wiki constantly changes.
- As well as adding your own content and fixing any errors that you detect on your group’s wiki, it is OK (indeed, I encourage you!) to change other group members’ content if necessary.
- Don’t take it too personally if your content is edited by another group member. Did a particular contribution of yours really add to the wiki, or was it, in fact, irrelevant or badly thought out?
- If your group’s strategy is to divide up the work among members topic by topic or task by task, be careful that your wiki doesn’t end up incoherent and unfocused, containing unlinked ideas and content.
- Aim for a balance in your contributions to the wiki: you should be (1) adding substantive, topic-related content; (2) working with the others in your group to organise that content; and (3) making an effort to polish the site in terms of grammar, punctuation, and spelling.

During this collaborative task (semester Weeks 4–10), group members are each required to keep a reflective journal (20 points possible). The purpose of the journal (a Word file) is for you to document your ongoing thoughts and feelings about the wiki task as it progresses. I don't wish to be overly prescriptive regarding either the number of entries you write or the length of each entry, but I would suggest that you complete at least one entry per week. (Remember that it is important to date each entry you write!) Regardless of how often you write in your journal, however, here are some questions for you to address in your entries:

- How much content did you add (today, this week, etc.)?
- What was the nature of that content?
- Did you edit the contribution(s) made by any other group member(s)? Why? (If not, why?)
- What was the nature of the edits you made to another's contribution?
- Did you edit the actual content or merely correct a spelling or grammatical error?
- Did any other group member edit a contribution you made?
- What was the nature of that edit?
- How did you feel about another group member editing your work?

Feel free to tell me, too, about any group meetings you had and how they went. Did you meet face to face or online to plan your work?

I will discuss the rubric for the grading of reflective journals with you in Week 5.