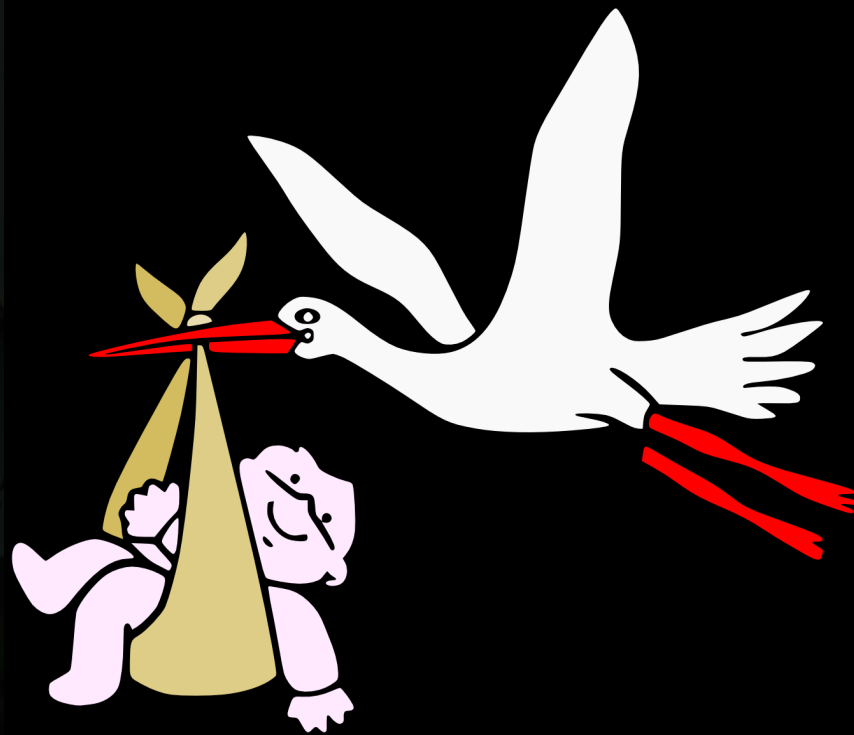# PRODUCTIVE EDITING

*First steps for the journey
from Newbies to Editors.*

# The current attitude to newbies!



A recent changes patroller approaches unsuspecting edits by newbies!

# The truth about NEWBIES!



A newbie carried away with enthusiasm for Wikipedia!

# What newbies want......



I WANT YOU TO SHOW SOME WIKILOVE❤

# Beginning learning! (The first steps)

- Read all the links in your welcome message.

- Learn how to post and sign off on a message. ~~~~

- Learn something new about the rules every day.

  - The 5 Pillars.

  - How to edit a page.

  - The "help" section links.

- Learn how and where to ask for  help.

- Start with small edits. Don't try writing an article right away.

# Help!

- Reading for Help

  - HELP section.

  - New contributors' help page.

- Asking for Help

  - Other editors e.g. "Welcoming Committee members" & "WikiGuides".

  - Help Desk.

  - Village Pump.

  - New contributors' help page.

  - Talk page of article concerned.

# Beyond Level Newbie!

What is needed?

*"Competence is required!"*

# Beyond Level Newbie!

**How to become competent?**

- Knowledge

- Skill

- Wisdom

# **KNOWLEDGE**

- Knowledge through reading :

  - "Help" section links.

  - "How to write a great article".

  - The manual of Style pages.

- Knowledge through doing i.e. Editting.

- Knowledge through observation.

- Look through Wikitext to see how features are implemented.

- Knowledge through asking.

# VITAL SKILLS

- Research.

- Citing (use templates).

- Writing with a neutral point of view.

- Paraphrasing.

- Avoiding copyvio & plagiarism.

# DEVELOPING THE VITAL SKILLS

- Read up the Wikipedia pages

- Practice on WikiProject India articles

  - Articles needing references and inline referencing

  - Articles needing cleanup

  - Articles with disputes, POV issue and weasel words

  - More than 40 categories of cleanup

# CREATING A STUB

- Use the Article Wizard.

- Add the first sentence written in the style of the lead (text paragraphs that begin an article).

- Make at least two wikilinks.

- Add a reference & the "References" section.

- Add a stub template.

- Add a category.

- Add a WikiProject banner to the talk page.

- Add more sentences, one at a time, each with references.

# CREATING AN ARTICLE (For newbies)

- Create a stub (as told)

- Add referenced facts (one by one).

- Add images.

- Create a structure as you go on.

- Rewrite.

- Later, when you get more references, add more facts, categories, images, etc. etc.

# CREATING AN ARTICLE (For students)

- Decide your scope, create your structure & get it approved.

- Assemble resources. Create stub in user space.

- Take the first section, assemble referenced facts, write the section. Write others in sequence.

- Assemble/create images, graphs, maps, diagrams etc.

- Add all templates, categories, images.

- Self check your article with B & then GA checklists.

- Get it checked by OA, CA, peers, other editors & rectify faults indicated.

- Move it into mainspace once approved.

# MORE HINTS FOR ARTICLE SKILLS

- If writing an article or stub, prepare it on user space and get it vetted before moving it to article space. Have numerous user pages, one for each article.

- Find a mentor in your neighbourhood or online.

- Join a WikiProject, check the projects rules for article development. Develop articles for the projects.

- Recommended activities:

    - Bring an article to GA.

    - Learn to publish a "Do You Know" (DYK).

    - Do peer review of articles.

# **WISDOM**

- Be patient, learn the rules of the game.

- If you get into a fight, expect wounds to your ego.

- Learn to control yourself on Wikipedia.

- Assume good faith, no matter the aggravation. Where not encountered, build up evidence for ANI.

- Wikipedia is the real world, expect to find trolls and vandals.

- Don't get discouraged by a bad experience. Remember

*When the going gets tough, the tough get going.*

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- Version – 0.1

- First presented during WikiConference India 2011 on 20 November 2011.

Image Credit : Luis Sanchez
(http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Felicidade_A_very_happy_bo
y.jpg)

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Text of a presentation given by User:AshLin on 20 Nov 2011 at
Mumbai at WikiConference 2011.
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Good morning, over the next twenty minutes or so, I will be speaking on
the subject "Productive Editting". It is an umbrella heading,
principally since at first I could not make up my mind as to what all to
include in it. Later, I decided to speak on the journey a newbie takes
to become a self-confident editor and show you a path. Many of has
had little guidance and if listening to me for twenty minutes helps
makes things easier for you, I would have achieved my aim.

The current attitude to newbies!

A recent changes patroller approaches unsuspecting edits by newbies!

Image Credit: Gustave Doré (1832–1883)
(http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Poucet10.jpg)

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Everyone has been a newbie. Yet it is strange that we so easily forget what it is like to be one. When I began editting in 2006, the atmosphere was benign and helpful but today the atmosphere is hostile and intolerant of newbies. Nazi-like editors ruthlessly delete newbie edits and slap them with warning templates.

The truth about NEWBIES!

A newbie carried away with enthusiasm for Wikipedia!

Image Credit : Claude Covo-Farchi (
http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Stork_with_new-born_child.png)

------------------------------------------------------------------------

To me, newbies are people new to Wikipedia, unaware of how to do things but with tons of enthusiasm. They are eager to become part of the community, apprehensive of how they will be received and willing to learn the way around. Till they do that, they are likely to disrupt a few things. They represent promise, they are our future.
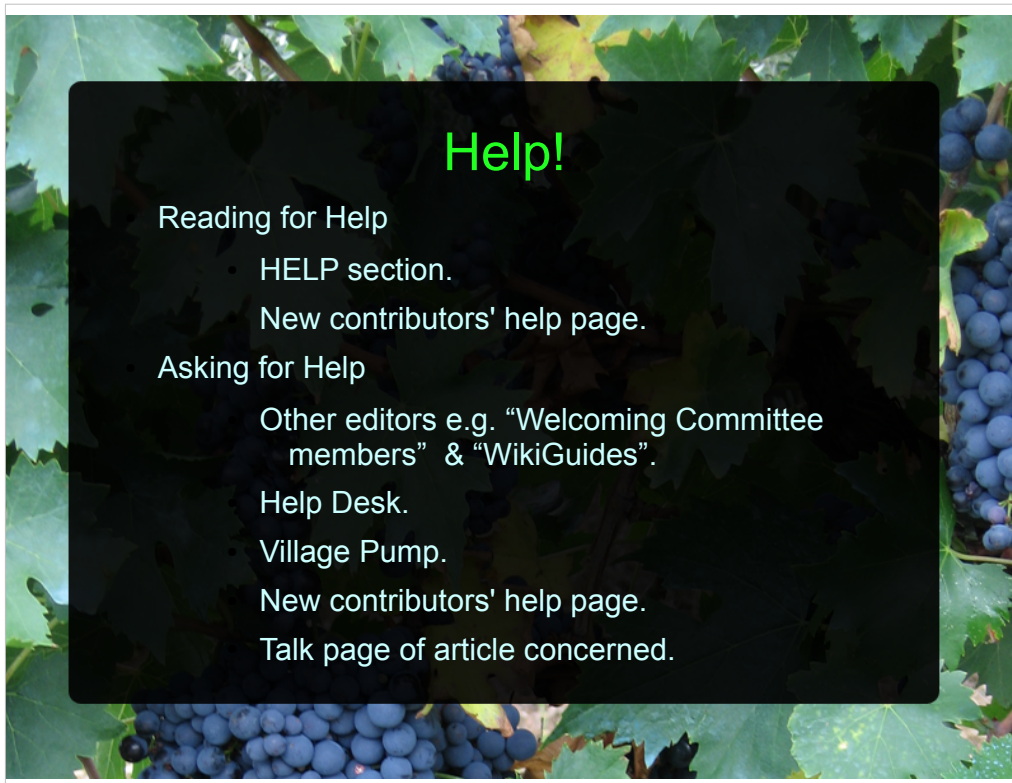
Author: Michael Häggström
(http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Uncle_Wikipe-tan_
%28show_some_WIKILOVE%29.png)

-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

So what is needed folks is to give them lots of wikilove and help
them first stand on their feet and next to get onto the road of
becoming respected editors.

**Beginning learning! (The first steps)**

Read all the links in your welcome message.

Learn how to post and sign off on a message. ~~~~

Learn something new about the rules every day.

The 5 Pillars.

How to edit a page.

The "help" section links.

Learn how and where to ask for  help.

Start with small edits. Don't try writing an article right away.

The ABC of editting is listed here. You cant run until you walk. You cant walk till youstand. These are the foundation skills. Dont under-estimate them. This is serious business for beginning editors.

**Help!**

Reading for Help
- HELP section.
- New contributors' help page.

Asking for Help
- Other editors e.g. "Welcoming Committee members" & "WikiGuides".
- Help Desk.
- Village Pump.
- New contributors' help page.
- Talk page of article concerned.

The main problem newbies face is "what do I do now?' or "oops, what do I do now?" You can get help by reading up or asking for it. The handout I have given contains these so don't worry, you get to take it home in hard copy.

Beyond Level Newbie!
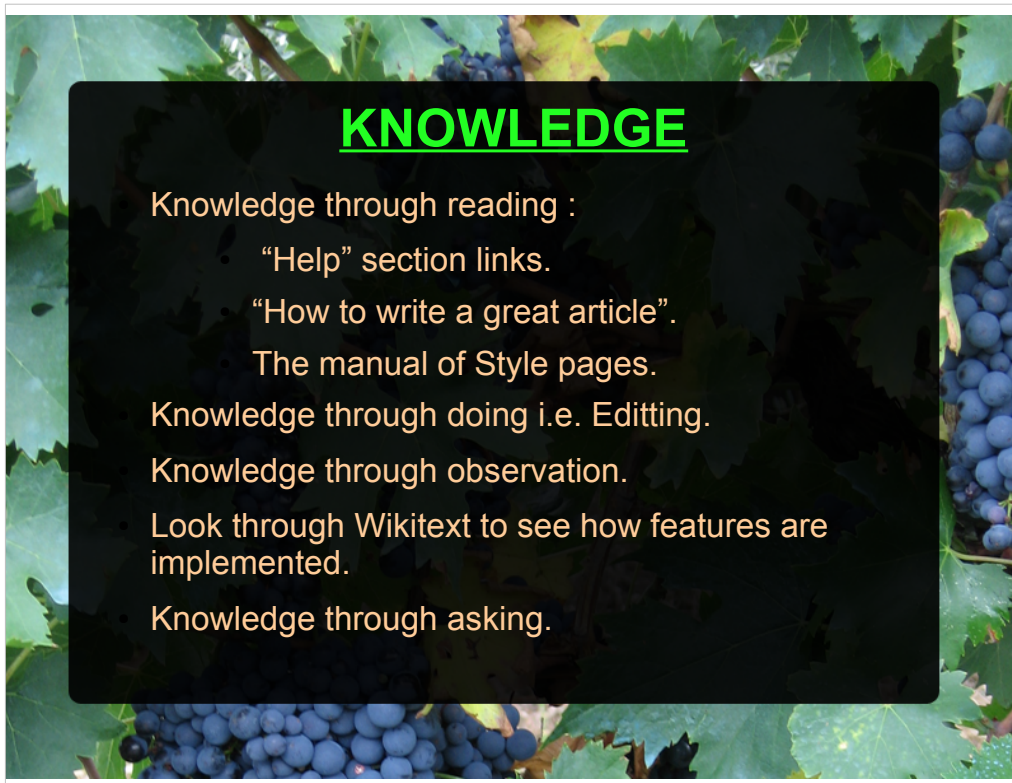
What is needed?

*"Competence is required!"*

After a period of time, you master the basic skills, you have been making small edits, for some time now. You are itching to get ahead and do great things. You are now setting out on the journey to be a good editor.

But what is the most important characteristic required of an experienced editor? It is not good faith, love for every one or even world peace but COMPETENCE! Just as you want a competent doctor who may be surly rather than one who has nice bedside manners but no skill; similarly Wikipedians want other editors to be competent, gifted craftsmen, trueprofessionals.

And how can we develop competence? By consciously trying to acquire the following attributes - Knowledge, Skills and Wisdom.

**KNOWLEDGE**

Knowledge through reading :

"Help" section links.

"How to write a great article".

The manual of Style pages.

Knowledge through doing i.e. Editting.

Knowledge through observation.

Look through Wikitext to see how features are implemented.
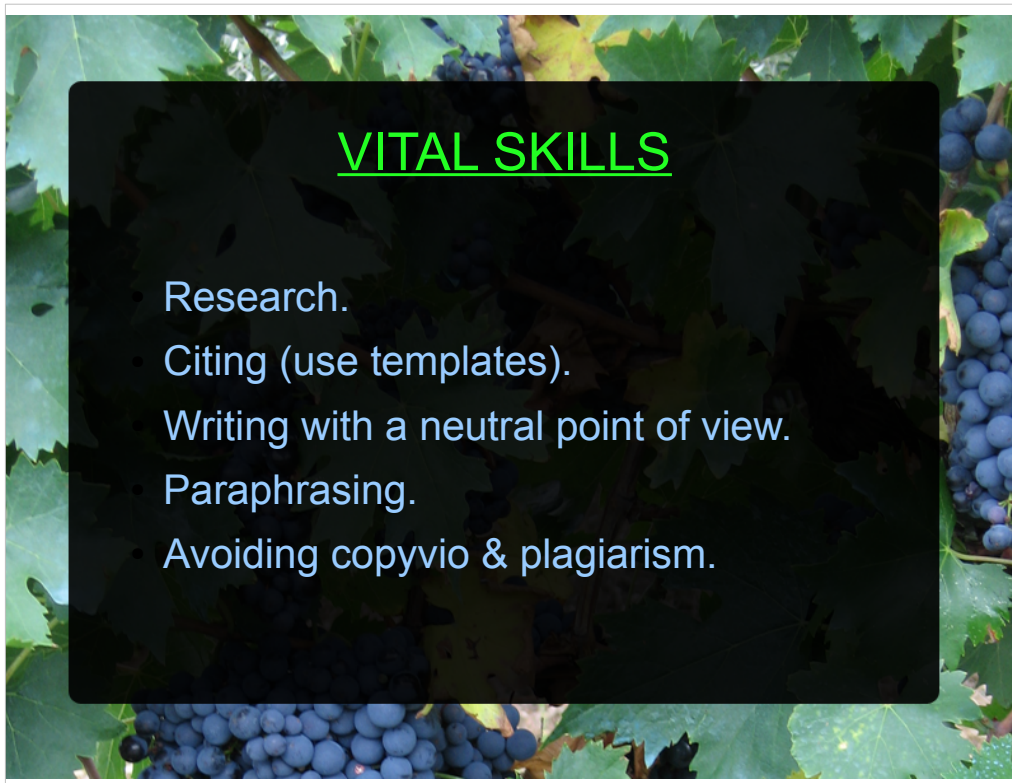
Knowledge through asking.

Of all these, knowledge is the easiest to get. How can we acquire knowledge? In many ways – by reading, doing, observing, and by asking.

These are the means, you know and I know these things. No great secrets here. There is something more required,  a little extra.

Call it habit, motivation, time management or "tarteeb" (Hindustani word meaning "the right way to do a thing"). You need to being in two habits:
* Plan your editting sessions. At least plan a few session, even if not all.
* Place some time apart at the beginning of each session, to learn new things.

Understand that time spent reading and learning is as or in fact is more valuable than editting.

**VITAL SKILLS**

- Research.
- Citing (use templates).
- Writing with a neutral point of view.
- Paraphrasing.
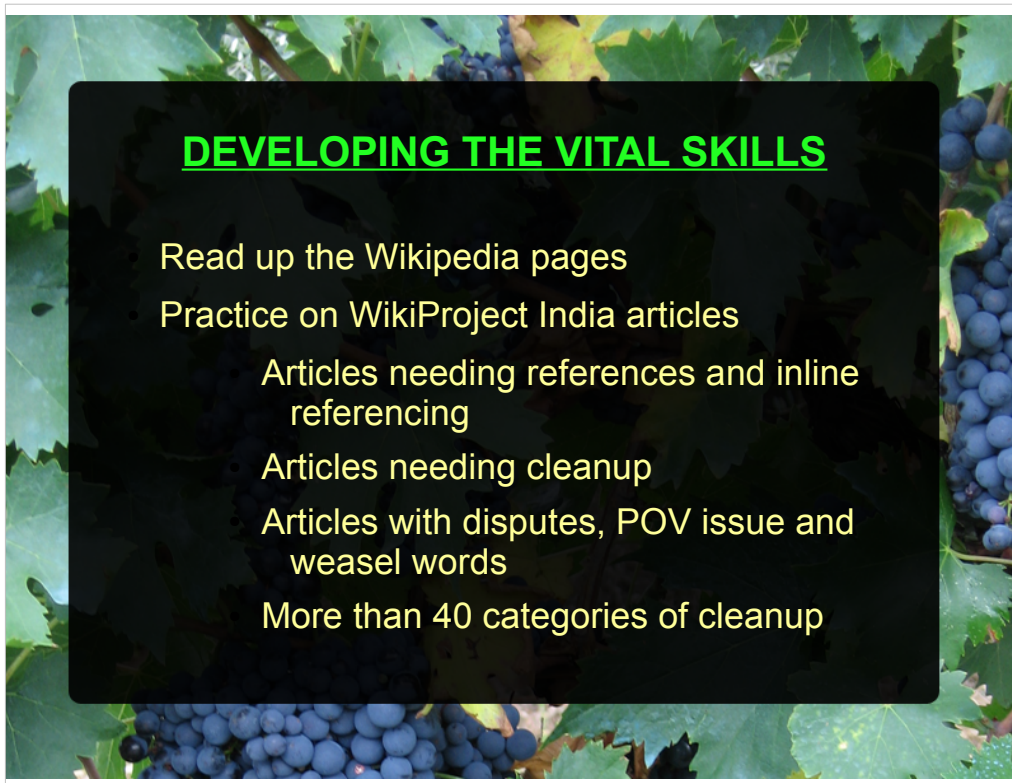- Avoiding copyvio & plagiarism.

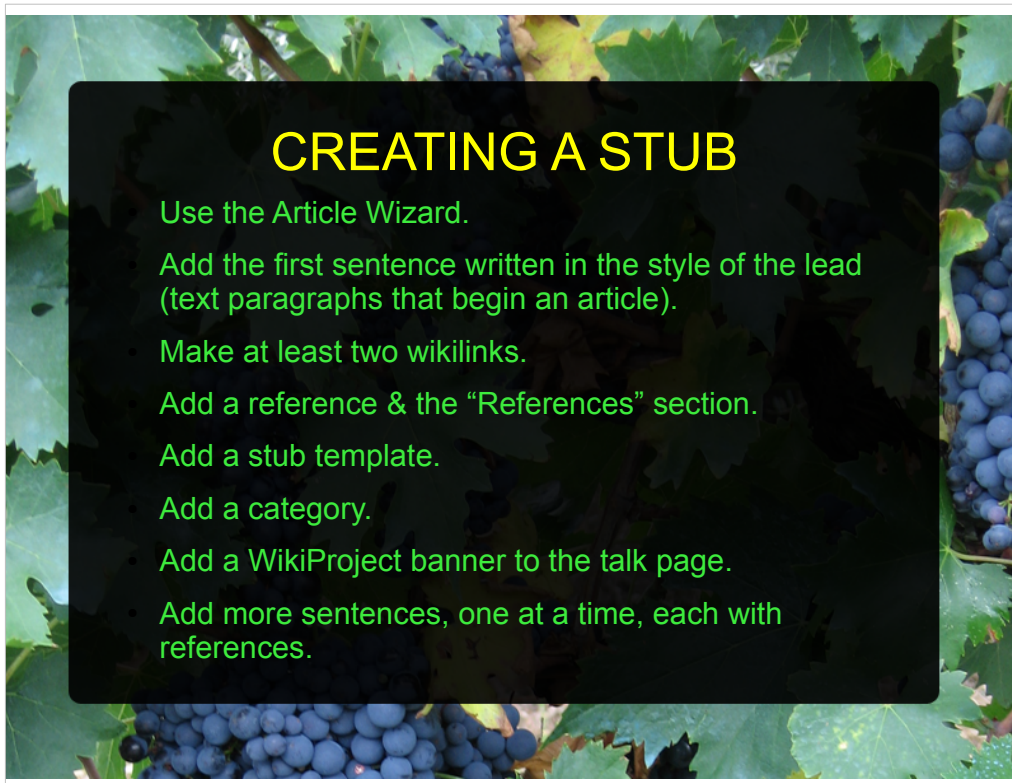These are the most important skills a Wikipedian should know.

Research to get your facts right. Learn to differentiate reliable
From non-reliable sources. Cite your references preferably using templates. Learn to rewrite, taking someone's information is acceptable if we cite his work as reference but taking his exact words is a academic crime called Plagiarism. A related misdemeanor, a legal issue, is copying someones copyrighted words even if acknowledged.

These are the most importanbt skills. Remember we paid a very costly price in the India Education Program because we forgot how important these are.

**DEVELOPING THE VITAL SKILLS**

- Read up the Wikipedia pages
- Practice on WikiProject India articles
    - Articles needing references and inline referencing
    - Articles needing cleanup
    - Articles with disputes, POV issue and weasel words
    - More than 40 categories of cleanup

Your next question to me is how can I develop these skills ? Very easy, WikiProject India has over 70,000 issues needing cleanup. Clean some of those up, I guarantee you by the time you work yourself through them, you will have an intimate knowledge of Wikipedia rules. There are more than 40 types of cleanup to be done on Wikipedia. Try to do just three of each type. It is very, very instructive.

**CREATING A STUB**

Use the Article Wizard.

Add the first sentence written in the style of the lead (text paragraphs that begin an article).

Make at least two wikilinks.

Add a reference & the "References" section.

Add a stub template.

Add a category.

Add a WikiProject banner to the talk page.

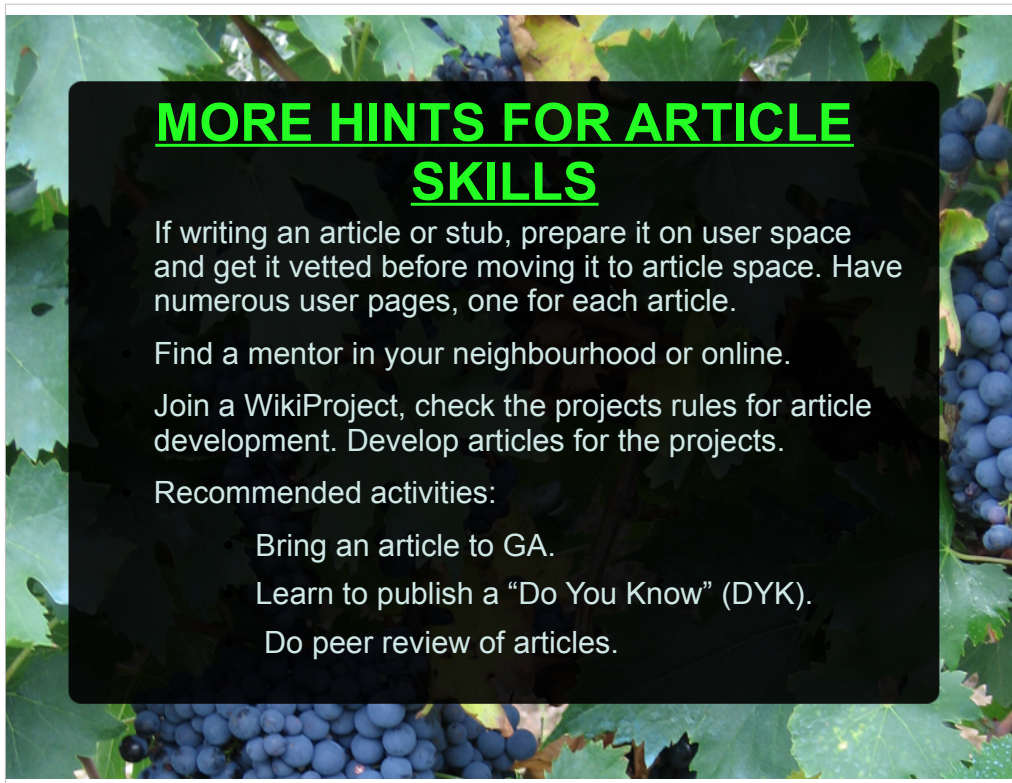Add more sentences, one at a time, each with references.

The biggest challenge you will face is how to make a stub without getting it deleted. If you want to ensure your stub remains on Wikipedia, firstly make sure that it is notable. Non-notable stubs will get deleted no matter what. Then follow the sequence of steps outlined here. If you complete all this, the people reviewing your stubs will feel that you know your beans and not bother you.

CREATING AN ARTICLE (For newbies)

Create a stub (as told)

Add referenced facts (one by one).

Add images.

Create a structure as you go on.

Rewrite.

Later, when you get more references, add more facts, categories, images, etc. etc.

The same applies for articles. It is not important to write much but what you write must be of a good quality, i.e. it must be referenced. That is the trick of the trade. Build up your article's other attributes as you go along. Search for images on Commons and add them. Add templates, categories, etc.

**CREATING AN ARTICLE (For students)**

Decide your scope, create your structure & get it approved.

Assemble resources. Create stub in user space.

Take the first section, assemble referenced facts, write the section. Write others in sequence.

Assemble/create images, graphs, maps, diagrams etc.

Add all templates, categories, images.

Self check your article with B & then GA checklists.

Get it checked by OA, CA, peers, other editors & rectify faults indicated.

Move it into mainspace once approved.

For students enrolled in the Campus ambassador program, I have a different approach to developing an article. Decide the overall structure, get it approved. Marshal your resources and craft your article, all the time getting help and feedback from OAs, CAs and other Wikipedians. Publish it only when it is checked, rectified and ready.

This slide, hidden in the presentation given in the WikiConference, lists more hints for gaining skills.

**WISDOM**

Be patient, learn the rules of the game.

If you get into a fight, expect wounds to your ego.

Learn to control yourself on Wikipedia.

Assume good faith, no matter the aggravation. Where not encountered, build up evidence for ANI.

Wikipedia is the real world, expect to find trolls and vandals.

Don't get discouraged by a bad experience. Remember

*When the going gets tough, the tough get going.*

Wisdom! How can I make you wise. Only common sense, experience and an alert, enquiring mind can help you become wise. Here are a few pointers. They may seem of little importance but pay heed to them and you will save much unhappiness and wasted effort.

Any questions?

# CREDITS

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