

Topic

- **Introduction**
 - What is a wiki, exactly?
 - Origins of the term
 - No ready physical analog
 - Not a "thing" so much as a philosophy - an approach toward working collaboratively
 - 3 main points
 - 1: How do wikis work?
 - 2: How can they be incorporated into the classroom?
 - 3: *Should* wikis be used in the classroom?
- **1: How do wikis work?**
 - Multiple authors working on a single document at the same time
 - Non-destructive editing, less like a document and more like motion picture film
 - Example: wikipedia.org the online encyclopedia (much controversy lately!)
- **2: How can the be incorporated in to the classroom**
 - Distributed note taking - video example
 - Collaborative authorship - comm 594 example
 - Student written textbook - video example
- **3: *Should wikis be used in the classroom?***
 - Depends on context - let's look at two classes, made up of the same group of students, that used a wiki in the department of communication - Fall semester, 2004 - visual aid: graph of edits over time
 - 502
 - Extensive use of wiki for note taking, distributed reading
 - Seen as a valuable asset
 - Essential for exams and projects
 - 500
 - Very little use for any purpose
 - Seen as unnecessary for paper and exam
 - Almost no content generated
 - Why this disparity?
 - Difference in teaching styles
 - Quantity of materials
 - Initial wiki structure
 - Class personality
 - Leadership
 - Unknown factors?
 - Ultimately, this is the focus of my thesis research.
- **Conclusion: Academic wikis . . .**
 - Wikis *can* offer a unique and valuable learning experience for students, and allow for knowledge sharing outside the classroom.
 - But only under certain circumstances
 - should not be forced
 - Ask yourself: is your class or department more like 502 or 500?
 - Hands on vs. off

Topic

- students who can provide leadership
- is there value in contributing to a wiki?
- Incorporating a wiki, as with most technologies (podcasting, etc) requires *more* work of the instructor and the class as a whole. Not a panacea, but can provide measurable benefits.