



A beginner's guide to editing Wikipedia

A CRUK & Wikimedia UK training module



Your trainer for today

- Dr Mike Peel - Lead trainer
- Astronomer at the Jodrell Bank Centre for Astrophysics, University of Manchester
- Wikipedian since 2005
- www.mikepeel.net

<http://bit.ly/2bXBHzQ>



Today's session

- How to set up your account
- Getting started as an editor
- Adding to the encyclopaedia
- Finding your subject focus

<http://bit.ly/2bXBHzQ>



Setting up a Wikipedia account

- Please create an account, you can see this is the top right corner:

•

 Not logged in [Talk](#) [Contributions](#) [Create account](#) [Log in](#)

Read

[View source](#)

[View history](#)

Search



Create account

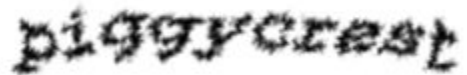
Username [\(help me choose\)](#)

Password

Confirm password

Email address (optional)

Security check



[Refresh](#)

Can't see the image? [Request an account](#)

Create your account



What is Wikipedia?



- Wikipedia is a free encyclopedia that anyone can edit and contribute to
- There are articles written in over 295 languages
- It is one of the largest collaborative projects in history
- It relies on the contribution of people like you

<http://bit.ly/2bXBHzQ>

Why participate?



- We need a diversity of experience
- Wikipedia needs expertise
- ~85% of Wikipedia Editors are male
- Women are generally underrepresented (only 1 in 6 biographies are of women)
- Articles focus on “Global North” subjects and Western culture

<http://bit.ly/2bXBHzQ>

Key points about edits



- No original research
 - Articles should summarise what others have published
- Favour meta-analysis, not analysis
- Give assertions context, e.g use quotation marks to indicate that something is a point of view, not necessarily fact
- Look for the consensus on a subject, not the newest theory

<http://bit.ly/2bXBHzQ>

Key points about edits



- Neutral point of view
 - Articles should be accurate and without bias
 - All significant viewpoints should be considered and included in a balanced way
- Articles should be written in an encyclopaedic style with a formal tone

<http://bit.ly/2bXBHzQ>

Key points about edits



- Conflicts of interest:
- “when advancing outside interests is more important to an editor than advancing the aims of Wikipedia, that editor stands in a conflict of interest”
- Paid contributions without disclosure are against Wikipedia’s T&C.
- Always note your affiliation on your user page if it’s related to your editing activities.

<http://bit.ly/2bXBHzQ>

Encyclopaedic style



- **Try to stick to all of these**
 - Use plain language
 - Be brief
 - Cite sources to back up factual claims
 - Attribute viewpoints to the people who hold them
 - Avoid stating conclusions
 - Unless attributable to specific sources

<http://bit.ly/2bXBHzQ>

Sources?

- You are allowed to use primary sources....
Carefully. Secondary sources are best.
- Scientific journals are preferred
- Original papers can be both primary *and* secondary sources

E.g the *Abstract* may be a primary source, but the *Introduction* and *Discussion* may be secondary.

<http://bit.ly/2bXBHzQ>

Discussion

"The present study shows substance X had an analgesic effect on cats" shows study is primary source.

VS

"The present study shows that substance X had an analgesic effect on cats, thereby supporting the review of Reference1" implying external expert review.

<http://bit.ly/2bXBHzQ>

Introduction

"There is ample evidence that X is a risk-factor for Y (Reference1, Reference2, Reference3)."

So, experts have reviewed the source.

<http://bit.ly/2bXBHzQ>

Your sandbox



- Sandbox pages provide space to experiment with the process of editing Wikipedia pages
- When you are logged in to your User Account you access your sandbox by clicking on the link at the top right of your screen
- The first time you open your sandbox, Wikipedia will automatically create it

<http://bit.ly/2bXBHzQ>

Using your sandbox

- Use your sandbox to practice and experiment
- You can draft new articles in your sandbox first before saving them



htl

:Q



WIKIMEDIA
UK

Note: “Edit Source” vs “Edit”?

- Two different types of editing...
“**Edit source**” = Wikitext: Like HTML/LaTeX
“**Edit**” = Visual Editor: MS Word style writing
- Today we will be using Visual Editor



<http://bit.ly/2bXBHzQ>




WIKIMEDIA
UK

Note: “Edit Source” vs “Edit”?

- On some pages it will default to source editing, if so, go to the pen icon on the far right.

Content page **Discussion** [Read](#) [Edit](#) [View history](#) [★](#) [More ▾](#)

Editing Oxford Food Symposium wikithon on Women and Food/British Library Women & Food Editathon July 2016

B I [Advanced](#) [Special characters](#) [Help](#) 

==Articles to improve==
*[[add here like this]]
.
.
.
==Articles to create==
*[[add here like this]]
.
.
.

Creating your sandbox

- Go to Wikipedia...

Welcome to Wikipedia,

the **free** encyclopedia that anyone can edit.
5,191,883 articles in English

- Arts
- Biography
- Geography
- History
- Mathematics
- Science
- Society
- Technology
- **All portals**

From today's featured article



Satoru Iwata (December 6, 1959 – July 11, 2015) was a Japanese **game programmer** and businessman who became the fourth president and **chief executive officer** of **Nintendo** in 2002. Born in **Sapporo**, Japan, Iwata expressed interest in **video games** from an early age and later majored in **computer science** at the **Tokyo Institute of Technology**. He joined the **game developer** HAL Laboratory in 1980 and became its president in 1993. Joining Nintendo as the head of its corporate-planning division in 2000, he brought growth to the company. A self-declared gamer, he focused on expanding the appeal of video games across all demographics and increasing the market space. He also built a strong relationship with Nintendo fans through social media and his regular appearances in **Iwata Asks** and **Nintendo Direct**, becoming the public face of the company. Under his direction, Nintendo developed the profitable **Nintendo DS** and **Wii video game consoles**, but the **Nintendo 3DS** and **Wii U** dropped net sales by two-thirds from 2009 to 2012, leaving the company with its first operating losses in 30 years. Iwata voluntarily halved his salary as an apology in 2011 and 2014. (**Full article...**)

Recently featured: **No. 90 Wing RAAF** · *Deinocheirus* · *Jeannette expedition*
Archive · **By email** · **More featured articles...**

In the news

- In **association football**, **Euro 2016** concludes with **Portugal** defeating **France** in the **final**.
- The **Liberal–National Coalition**, led by **Malcolm Turnbull** (*pictured*), is set to form government after it won the most seats in the **Australian federal election**.
- Flooding along the **Yangtze River** **causes more than 180 deaths** in central and eastern China.
- Five police officers are **killed** in **Dallas, Texas**, during a protest following the shootings of **Alton Sterling** and **Philando Castile**.



Ongoing events: UK EU membership referendum aftermath
Recent deaths: Sydney Schanberg · Abdul Sattar Edhi · Beatrice de Cardi

On this day...

July 11: **Day of the Flemish Community of Belgium**; **Naadam** begins in Mongolia

Creating your sandbox

- Go to the sandbox (top right)

 [StuartPrior](#)  0  0 [Talk](#) [Sandbox](#) [Preferences](#) [Beta](#) [Watchlist](#) [Contributions](#) [Log out](#)

[Main Page](#) [Talk](#)

[Read](#) [View source](#) [View history](#) 

Welcome to Wikipedia,

the [free encyclopedia](#) that [anyone can edit](#).

[5,098,685](#) articles in [English](#)

- [Arts](#)
- [History](#)
- [Society](#)
- [Biography](#)
- [Mathematics](#)
- [Technology](#)
- [Geography](#)
- [Science](#)
- [All portals](#)

From today's featured article

Ellen Wilkinson (1891–1947) was a British [Labour Party](#) politician, [Member of Parliament](#) (MP) for [Jarrow](#) from 1935 to 1947 and [Minister of Education](#) from July 1945 until her death. In 1936 she was a leader of the [Jarrow March](#), an iconic symbol of 1930s unemployment and impoverishment. On graduating from the [University of Manchester](#) in 1913, Wilkinson worked mainly as

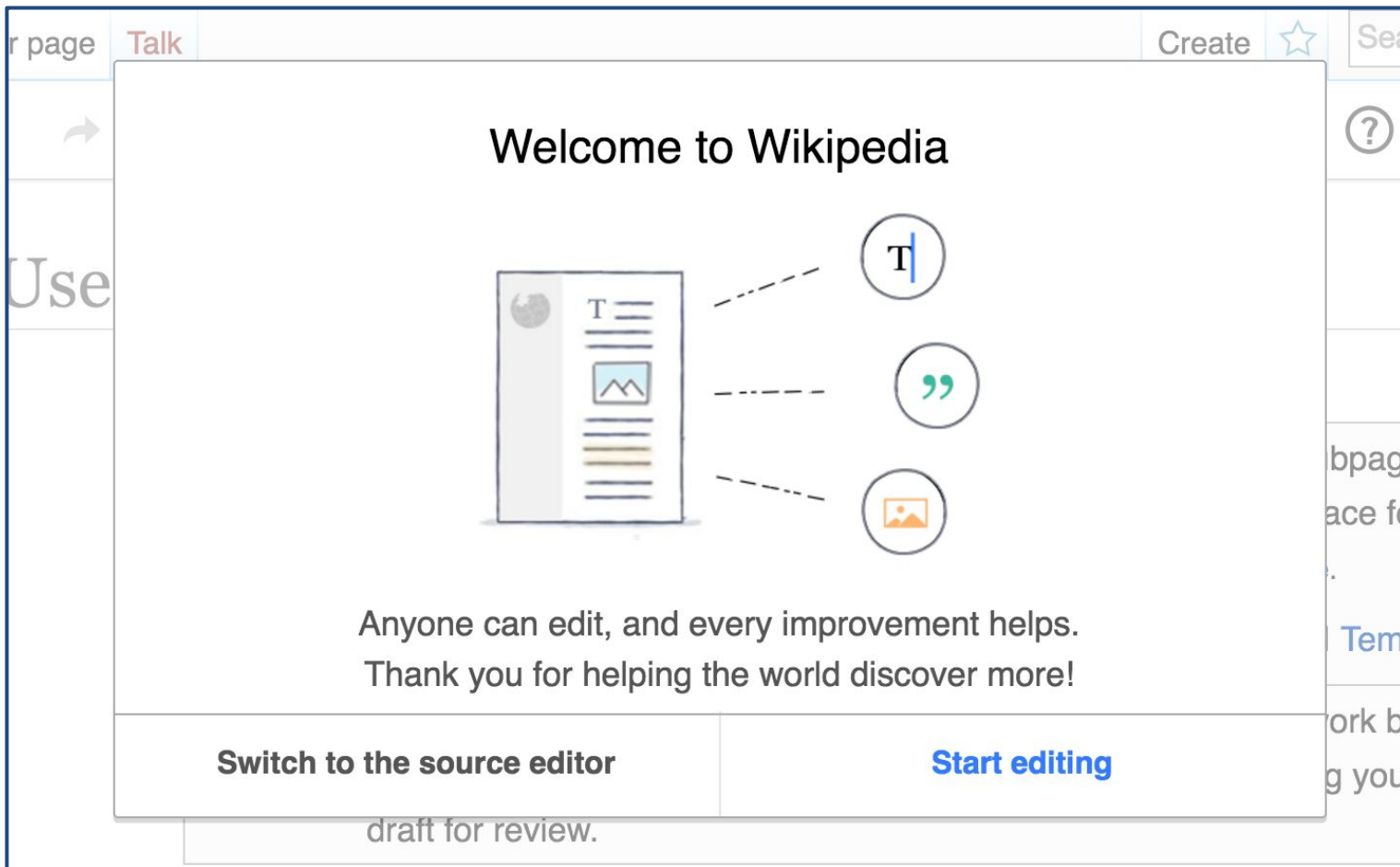
In the news

- The [Human Rights Protection Party](#), led by [Tuilaepa Aiono Sailele Malielegaoi](#) (*pictured*), wins a landslide victory in the [Samoan general election](#).
- Astronomers announce the



Tuilaepa Aiono
Sailele Malielegaoi

Pop-Ups



<http://bit.ly/2bXBHzQ>

Creating your sandbox

- Go to the “Create” ...

 TestTestTest999  1  0 [Talk](#) [Sandbox](#) [Preferences](#) [Beta](#) [Watchlist](#) [Contributions](#) [Log out](#)

User page [Talk](#)

Create source

[Create](#)



Search



Creating User:TestTestTest999/sandbox

Wikipedia does not have a [user page](#) with this exact title. Before creating this page, please see [Help:Subpages](#).

To start a page called *User:TestTestTest999/sandbox*, type in the box below. When you are done, preview the page to check for errors and then save it.

Content that [violates any copyrights](#) will be deleted. Encyclopedic content must be [verifiable](#). Work submitted to Wikipedia can be edited, used, and redistributed—by anyone—subject to [certain terms and conditions](#).

B

I



► [Advanced](#)

► [Special characters](#)

► [Help](#)

► [Cite](#)



{{User sandbox}}

<!-- EDIT BELOW THIS LINE -->

http://bit.ly/2DABH2Q

Creating your sandbox

- Type something below the box...

 CRUKTEST  0  0 [Talk](#) [Sandbox](#) [Preferences](#) [Beta](#) [Watchlist](#) [Contributions](#) [Log out](#)

User page [Talk](#)

Create this page



Search



Paragraph



Cite



Insert



Save page

User:CRUKTEST/sandbox

This is the user sandbox of [CRUKTEST](#). A user sandbox is a subpage of the user's [user page](#). It serves as a testing spot and page development space for the user and is **not an [encyclopedia article](#)**. Create or edit your own sandbox [here](#).



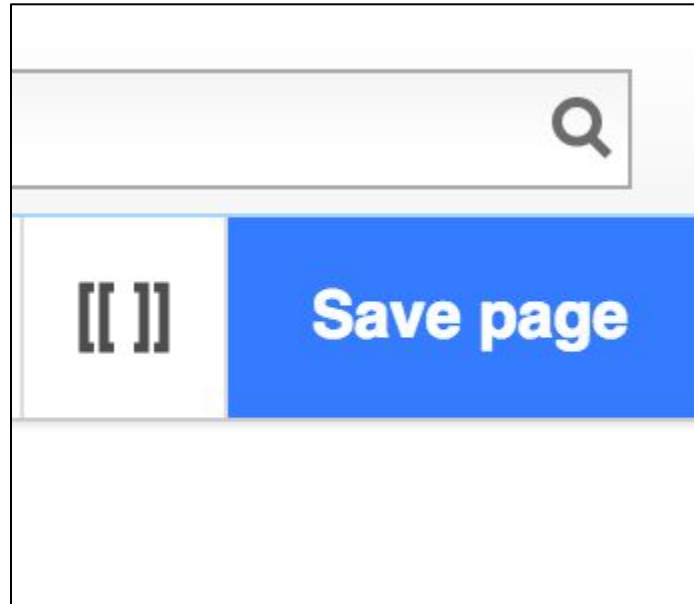
Other sandboxes: [Main sandbox](#) | [Tutorial sandbox 1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#) | [Template sandbox](#)

Writing an article and ready to request its creation? Save your work by pressing the "Save page" button below, and a button will appear here allowing you to submit your draft for review.

Type something here.... 

Creating your sandbox

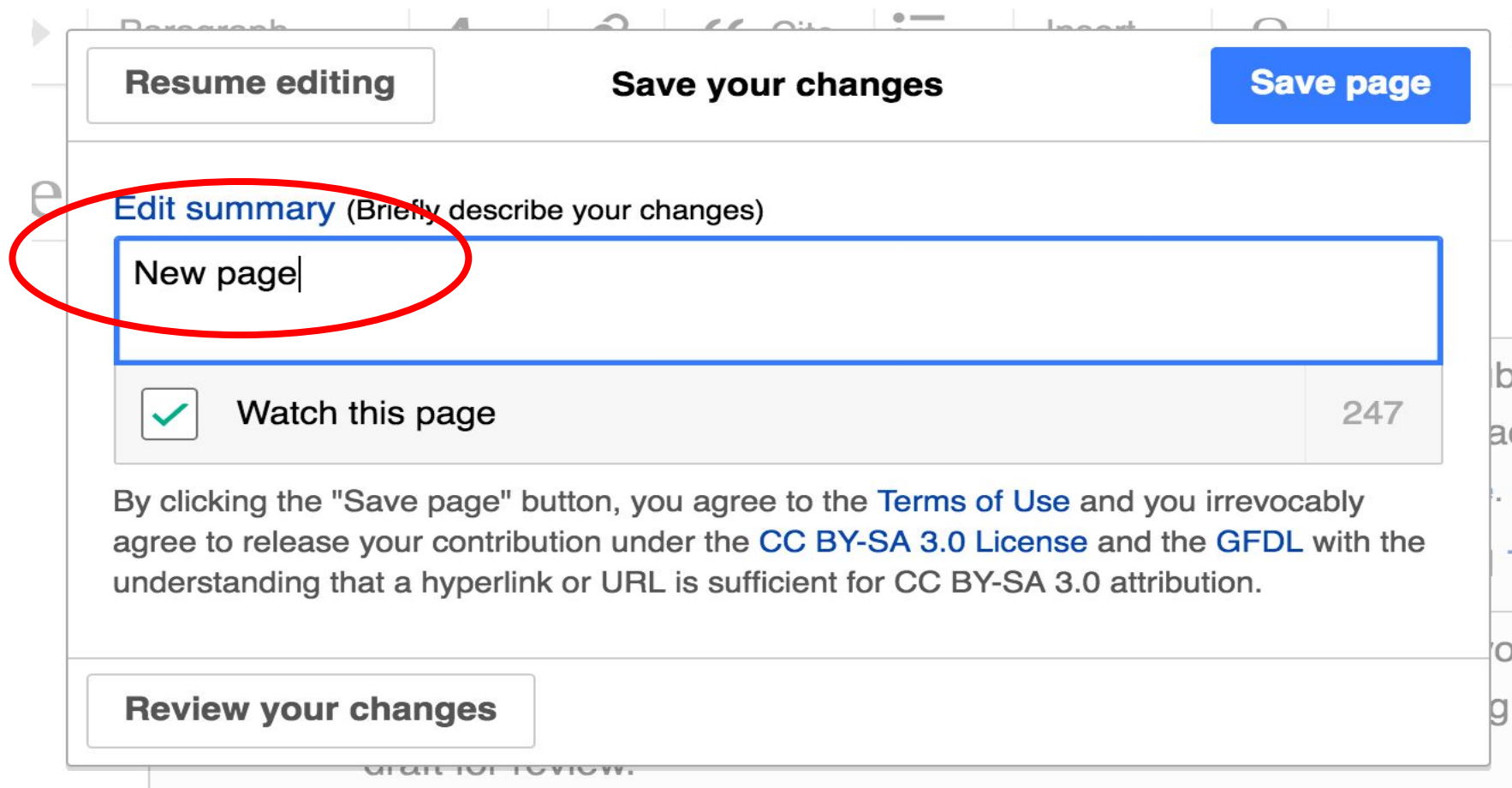
- Then Save page (top right)...



<http://bit.ly/2bXBHzQ>

Creating your sandbox

- Describe your edit briefly and save again.



The screenshot shows the Wikimedia edit summary dialog box. At the top, there are three buttons: "Resume editing", "Save your changes", and "Save page". The "Save page" button is highlighted in blue. Below the buttons is the "Edit summary" section, which is circled in red. It contains the text "New page|". Below the summary field is a checkbox labeled "Watch this page" with a green checkmark, and a counter showing "247". At the bottom, there is a "Review your changes" button. A disclaimer at the bottom states: "By clicking the 'Save page' button, you agree to the [Terms of Use](#) and you irrevocably agree to release your contribution under the [CC BY-SA 3.0 License](#) and the [GFDL](#) with the understanding that a hyperlink or URL is sufficient for CC BY-SA 3.0 attribution."

Resume editing **Save your changes** **Save page**

Edit summary (Briefly describe your changes)

New page|

☒ Watch this page 247

By clicking the "Save page" button, you agree to the [Terms of Use](#) and you irrevocably agree to release your contribution under the [CC BY-SA 3.0 License](#) and the [GFDL](#) with the understanding that a hyperlink or URL is sufficient for CC BY-SA 3.0 attribution.

Review your changes



WIKIMEDIA
UK

Creating your sandbox...

- Now the sandbox has some content, it exists and will show up in blue now where it was a red link before



User:CRUKTEST/sandbox

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



This is the user sandbox of **CRUKTEST**. A user sandbox is a subpage of the user's [user page](#). It serves as a testing spot and page development space for the user and is **not an encyclopedia article**. Create or edit your own sandbox [here](#).

Other sandboxes: [Main sandbox](#) | [Tutorial sandbox 1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#) | [Template sandbox](#)

Writing an article and ready to request its creation?




[Submit your draft for review!](#)


Type something here...

<http://bit.ly/2bXBHZQ>

Adding citations...

- Go to the “edit” button

 [StuartPrior](#)  0  0 [Talk](#) [Sandbox](#) [Preferences](#) [Beta](#) [Watchlist](#) [Contributions](#) [Log out](#)

User page [Talk](#) [Read](#) [Edit source](#) [Edit](#) [View history](#)  

User:StuartPrior/sandbox

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

< [User:StuartPrior](#)



This is the user sandbox of [StuartPrior](#). A user sandbox is a subpage of the user's [user page](#). It serves as a testing spot and page development space for the user and is **not an encyclopedia article**. Create or edit your own sandbox [here](#).

Other sandboxes: [Main sandbox](#) | [Tutorial sandbox 1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#) | [Template sandbox](#)

Writing an article and ready to request its creation?

[Submit your draft for review!](#)

This is my sandbox



WIKIMEDIA
UK

Adding citations...

- Type a verifiable statement e.g “The 8th March is International Women’s Day”

User page **Talk** [Read](#) [Edit](#) [View history](#) [★](#)

← → Paragraph **A** **“” Cite** Insert **Save page**

User:CRUKTEST/sandbox

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

This is the user sandbox of **CRUKTEST**. A user sandbox is a subpage of the user's [user page](#). It serves as a testing spot and page development space for the user and is **not an encyclopedia article**. Create or edit your own sandbox [here](#).

Other sandboxes: [Main sandbox](#) | [Tutorial sandbox 1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#) | [Template sandbox](#)

Writing an article and ready to request its creation? Save your work by pressing the "Save page" button below, and a button will appear here allowing you to submit your draft for review.

Type something here...

The 8th of March is International Women's Day|

http://bit.ly/2DAD12Q



Find an online source to support your statement..

→ ↺ 📄 www.internationalwomensday.com

ops Wikimania 2014 Trello WMUK Wikitools WIKIMANIA My Drive - Google Dr Funding Learning, skills, level dentist Pa



International Women's Day

Campaign theme

Take action

Resources

Events & activities

Pa

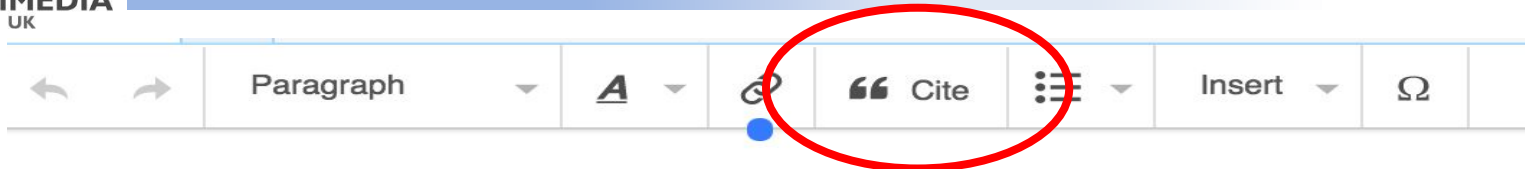
A young woman with brown hair, wearing a dark turtleneck and a grey jacket, looks directly at the camera. She is in a crowded street with many other people in the background, some of whom are blurred. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting daytime.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY - MARCH 8
CAMPAIGN THEME: #PLEDGEFORPARITY



WIKIMEDIA
UK

Click the “cite” button...



User:CRUKTEST/sandbox

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



This is the user sandbox of **CRUKTEST**. A user sandbox is a development space for the user and is **not an encyclopedia**

Other sandboxes: [Main sandbox](#) | [Tutorial sandbox 1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#),

Writing an article and ready to request its creation? Save you here allowing you to submit your draft for review.

Type something here...

The 8th of March is International Women's Day.^[1]



Cancel

Add a citation

Automatic

Manual

Re-use

URL, DOI or PMID

e.g. <http://www.example.com>

Generate

This page was last m

Text is available under
[Foundation, Inc.](#), a no


ply. By using t

Add the URL link....

Copy & paste the url of your online source, and click “Generate”.

Type something here...

The 8th of March is International Women's Day.^[1]



Cancel

Add a citation

Automatic

Manual

Re-use

URL, DOI or PMID

Generate

<http://bit.ly/2bXBHzQ>

Congratulations!

Then click “Insert” and you have added a citation.

Type something here...

The 8th of March is International Women's Day.^[1]



Back

Add a citation

 Website

"International Women's Day". *International Women's Day*. Retrieved 2016-04-19.

Insert

This page was last m

Text is available under
[Foundation, Inc.](#), a no

Note: Other citations...

- You can reference using DOI or PMID numbers too with the same method.

<http://bit.ly/2bXBHzQ>

The Cite tool will auto-populate the PMID/DOI metadata.

Another citation. ^[2]

Back

Add a citation

 Journal

Insert

Benson, Dennis A.; Cavanaugh, Mark; Clark, Karen; Karsch-Mizrachi, Ilene; Lipman, David J.; Ostell, James; Sayers, Eric W. (2013-01-01). "[GenBank](#)". *Nucleic Acids Research* **41** (Database issue): D36–42.
[doi:10.1093/nar/gks1195](#). ISSN 1362-4962.
[PMC](#): 3531190. [PMID](#) 23193287.






And manual citations...

- The Manual tab will offer you more templates to input data manually..

^[1] Mary Medd was an Architect. ^[2]

Add a citation

Automatic **Manual** **Re-use**

 Website	 Book
 News	 Journal
 Basic form	

home for visual arts. , the space inspired Damien Hirst to produce

Next steps?

Please create a Userpage using the same method as you did with your sandbox.

- Please say a little about yourself
- Include profession or field of study
- Affiliated institutions

This helps other editors see your edits in context and be less concerned about conflicts of interest.

<http://bit.ly/2bXBHzQ>

Create a user page



[Talk](#) [Sandbox](#) [Preferences](#) [Beta](#) [Watchlist](#) [Contributions](#) [Log out](#)

Read

[Edit source](#)

[View history](#)



More ▼

TW ▼

Search



<http://bit.ly/2bXBHzQ>

Create a user page

User page [Talk](#)

[Create](#)

[Create source](#)



More ▾

User:Mike Peel/Example

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

< [User:Mike Peel](#)

Wikipedia does not have a [user page](#) with this exact name. Before creating this page, please see [Wikipedia:Subpages](#).

- [Start the *User:Mike Peel/Example* page.](#)
- [Search for "*User:Mike Peel/Example*" in existing pages of namespace User.](#)
- [Look for pages within Wikipedia that link to this title.](#)


Other reasons this message may be displayed:








- If a page was recently created here, it may not be visible yet because of a delay in updating the database; wait a few minutes or try the [purge](#) function.
- Titles on Wikipedia are [case sensitive](#) except for the first character; please check [alternative capitalizations](#) and consider adding a [redirect](#) here to the correct page.
- If the page has been deleted, check the [deletion log](#), and see [Why was the page I created deleted?](#).




<http://bit.ly/2bXBHzQ>

Create a user page

User page [Talk](#)

Create [Create source](#)  More ▼ TW ▼

  ▼  ▼   [Cite](#)  ▼ [Insert](#) ▼ 



    [Save page](#)

User:Mike Peel/Example

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia
< User:Mike Peel

Hello, my name is ..., and I am interested in I work at Cancer Research UK.

[Privacy policy](#) [About Wikipedia](#) [Disclaimers](#) [Contact Wikipedia](#) [Developers](#) [Cookie statement](#) [Mobile view](#)

<http://bit.ly/2bXBHzQ>

Create a user page

Resume editing

Save your changes

Save page

[Edit summary](#) (Briefly describe your changes)

Starting user page

Common edit summaries – click to use

Common minor edit summaries – click to use

☒ Watch this page

237

By clicking the "Save page" button, you agree to the [Terms of Use](#) and you irrevocably agree to release your contribution under the [CC BY-SA 3.0 License](#) and the [GFDL](#) with the understanding that a hyperlink or URL is sufficient for CC BY-SA 3.0 attribution.

Review your changes

<http://bit.ly/2bXBHzQ>



Next steps?

Relevant Wikiprojects for you may be:

- Wikiproject Medicine (enwp.org/WP:MED)
- WikiProject Computational Biology (enwp.org/WP:WCB)
- WikiProject Missing encyclopedic articles/Cancer dictionary
(Or Google them)

<http://bit.ly/2bXBHzQ>



Thank you!

- Please fill in the signup sheets
- It helps us tell how much gets added to Wikipedia
- It helps us tell who we are reaching

<http://bit.ly/2bXBHzQ>