



Guide 3: Writing an entry

If you have identified a suitable topic/subject and have at least three references from reliable sources, it is time to start writing the article!

As all content on Wikipedia can be edited by other users, we recommend you draft this content outside of Wikipedia. Make sure you save your draft so that you have a complete version of your text.

- **Further reading and links**

- **Wikipedia: Writing Your First Article**
This includes many links to detailed information.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Your_first_article
- **Wikipedia: Manual of Style**
A comprehensive, detailed guide to style.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Manual_of_Style
- **Wikipedia: Writing Better Articles**
This includes sections on structure and tone.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Writing_better_articles
- **Wikipedia: The Perfect Article**
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:The_perfect_article
- **Wikipedia: Article Titles**
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Article_titles
- **List of Women Architects**
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_women_architects

Tone and style

Wikipedia aims to present content as objectively and accurately as a traditional encyclopedia would.

Consequently, the tone and language used in an article is assessed by Wikipedia volunteers who can flag an articles as inappropriate, or even delete it, if they believe it does not adhere to Wikipedia's standards.

1. Understand the tone required

The tone should be formal, 'objective' and descriptive. If you are used to writing for other architectural contexts it may take some time to get used to this tone and style.

- Write in the third person, in a dispassionate, factual manner.
- Avoid making judgements or assessments, although you may refer to sources that include assessments.
- Do write in a way that is meaningful in the context of architecture, but don't use architectural jargon. (Remember that your writing is aimed at a general readership.)
- Refer to your reliable sources for an indication of the tone appropriate to the subject area.

- Refer to *Wikipedia Manual of Style*

Content and structure

Content in Wikipedia articles is arranged into thematic sections within related headings and subheadings.

Content varies widely, so there is no set required structure for Wikipedia articles, but there are common structures and strategies for different kinds of entries, including biographies.



2. Identify an appropriate structure for your article

Most Wikipedia articles start with a ‘lead’, which provides the reader with a brief overview of the subject. Once the lead is written:

- Use section headings that will help your readers understand the content.
- Remember that your section headings are also used in the index box at the top of the article to help readers navigate longer articles.

Suggested headings

The following headings may assist with structuring content related to wikiD.

An architect profile

- Overview – lead in. (Note the lead paragraph doesn’t need a heading)
- Education
 - Practice
 - Government
 - Professional advocacy
 - Education
 - Publication
- Work
 - Built
 - Competitions
 - Public discourse
 - Writing
 - Publications
 - Research
- Recognition and awards
- Selected appointments
- References
- External links / Further reading

This is not exhaustive. For other headings and subheading suggestions [Refer to Wikipedia Manual of Style: Headings.](#)

3. Build an argument

In addition to citations, it is important to ensure that your content includes descriptive evidence of notability in Wikipedia terms.

The following is a checklist of content to be included in an entry of a notable subject in line with the ‘creative professionals’ notability criteria:

- Explain why this person is regarded as an important figure.
- Is the person known for developing a new concept, theory or technique? If so, state this and outline their contribution.
- Include a list of significant or well-known work that the individual has created or played a major role in co-creating. The work listed must be supported by citations in an independent book or multiple independent periodical articles or reviews to meet Wikipedia’s notion of significance.
- Include evidence of the person’s work being recognised as significant by the community or profession. This could be awards, inclusion in substantial exhibitions, publications or other recognition, such as heritage listing of a building or place. Recognition can be either per work or collectively (such as an award for the architect recognising a body of work).

It is important that this content is recorded within Wikipedia’s tone and style guidelines (see point 1) otherwise it may be dismissed as biased and flagged as inappropriate.

For more on notability [See Guide 2: Selecting and researching a topic/subject.](#)

- [Refer to Wikipedia: Notability](#)
- [Refer to Wikipedia: Notability: People](#)
- [Read “How to Be Notable” by Tania Davidge](#)

In the future it may be useful to develop notability criteria that are particular to architects and architecture.

Precedents

A good way to learn to write a good Wikipedia article is to refer to relevant existing pages.

4. Refer to 'exemplary' articles

To read the existing pages for women architects over six continents ● *Refer to [Wikipedia: List of Women Architects](#)*.

Wikipedia has compiled a list of Featured Articles, considered to be of the highest quality. Articles of particular relevance for architecture include:

- [I. M. Pei](#)
- [Palladian Architecture](#)
- [The Shrine of Remembrance](#)
- [Statue of Liberty](#)
- [Millennium Park](#)

To understand why these articles are considered exemplary

● *Refer to [Wikipedia: The Perfect Article](#)*

Sadly, no women architects are yet included in Wikipedia's list of exemplars.

Article titles

Every Wikipedia article must have a unique title. In most cases the title of your article will be obvious, especially when creating an entry for an architect, organisation or building. For information on choosing titles for other types of articles

● *Refer to [Wikipedia: Article Titles](#)*

5. Check your title

If your proposed title is already in use you will need to identify a unique title and create a disambiguation page.

● *Refer to [Guide 4](#)*:

[Navigating the Wikipedia interface](#)

Spelling and grammar

Ensuring that your proposed article is well written, with correct spelling and grammar, will help ensure it is not flagged for deletion.

6. Do an edit / spell check

Before uploading do a last spelling and grammar check.

7. Venture into Wikipedia

● *Go to [Guide 4](#)*:

[Navigating the Wikipedia interface](#)