# Using Wikispaces for collaborative content creation in a non-major's biology lab

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### **Objectives**

- Engage more students
  - Especially creative/artistic
- May help STEM retention
- Harnesses power of collaboration and technology
- Provides a tangible way to implement "Active Learning" in class

### **Objectives**

- Use student creators to identify interesting and relevant aspects of the topic.
  - After all... They know best what they are interested in!
- Create a product that is "bigger" than what any one person could create on their own.

| ☆ Thursday 3pm  | Edit | 20       | 0 🥥 0 | 0       |  |
|---|------|----------|-------|---------|--|
| Lab 12<br>Plants & People                             |      |          |       |         |  |
| Click on the icon to go to each group's utility       |      |          |       |         |  |
| Art & Fashion Business Business I Protection Industry |      | caping 8 |       | Medical |  |

| Group Name                  | oup Name Group Mission   |  |  |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|
| Art/Fashion                 | Highlight a particular plant's usefulness artistically (dyes, fabrics, artistic mediums, etc.)   |  |  |
| Business                    | Promote a particular plant for a new or up-and-coming commercial use   |  |  |
| Environmental<br>Protection | Develop a plan to increase awareness of threatened plants, habitat or diversity for future generations                                 |  |  |
| Industry                    | Suggest ways to better or more efficiently use plant products in industry (timber, paper, textiles, etc.)                              |  |  |
| Landscaping/Horticulture    | Iscaping/Horticulture Describe ways to use locally adapted (native) plants to beautify landscapes and conserve water in North<br>Texas |  |  |
| Medical                     | Identify a medically relevant plant and describe how it was discovered, where it grows, and how it is used today                       |  |  |

### Logistics

- Available to all for free
- Organizer (usually teacher) must create an account
- Students can either create an account or be bulk enrolled by the Instructor
  - This is useful for large classes

#### Groups

- Allows Instructor to assign students to a particular group
- Groups can be divided by class, topic, level, due date... However the Instructor chooses to use them
- Groups are private except to other members of the group and the Instructor

#### Assessment

- Wikispaces keeps detailed stats on usage
- Allows Instructor to monitor student's participation and input to wiki

#### **Embed wiki in your LMS**

- Blackboard, eCollege, Moodle, etc...
- Can simplify entry into wiki

## **Helpful Links**

- General Wikispace help:
  http://help.wikispaces.com
- Getting started with a new wiki http://help.wikispaces.com/New+Wiki

#### **Contact Us**

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