What can I do with SmartSite’s Wiki?

A wiki is a web page that anyone can edit. Accordingly, it is an ideal tool for collaboration.

You might use a wiki to...

• Have students write and collaboratively edit an essay that includes images, audio, video, and hyperlinks to additional resources. Students who disagree with their peers’ changes to their work can, with a single click, revert to an earlier version of the document. Using the wiki’s history tool, you can see which students contributed or made changes to the essay and when. In addition, you can leave comments directly within the essay or in a comments section at the end of the document. Best of all, students in the course will be able to read each other’s essays.

• As a variation on small-group essay collaboration, break students into groups, each of which writes a section of a research paper authored collaboratively by the class. Roger MacDonald of UCD’s Nutrition department has done this.

• Invite students to create a study guide for midterms and finals.

• Have a student “Google jockey” during lecture. The student conducts live searches, finding online resources relevant to the lecture, and then posts the links to the wiki.

• Invite students to add links to online resources relevant to the course.

• Have students write research papers (online or off) and then contribute to a wiki-based resource that helps future students with their research. Don Meisenheimer of UCD’s University Writing Program, for example, has students write a brief summary of their research process and then share key sources. He keeps this database, categorized by discipline, online for future students.

For more information, visit smartsite.ucdavis.edu. For assistance with SmartSite, call 754-HELP or e-mail smartsite-help@ucdavis.edu.