

## **Program assessment instrument: Indirect measure #2: Coded class focus group discussion**

050.3: AS in Computer information science Annual program object assessment

### ***Focus group rationale***

Following the students' completion of the Wikipedia verification project, they will be invited to discuss their experiences learning more about a tool they have all probably used numerous times in their life.

Focus groups invite storytelling, and stories are often about change through time—which can reveal the depth and quality of learning about a topic. In this case of this assessment, we are interested in the students' competencies surrounding information gathering, source assessment, and citation.

### ***Guiding questions***

The following list acts as a launch pad to discussion during this focus group. Facilitators should definitely expand upon and follow-up responses with probing questions as appropriate.

1. Describe your interactions with Wikipedia prior to this project? What did you know about how the tool works?
2. What messages have you received about this tool? From whom? Was any data cited?
3. What was the most surprising finding during your research? Why?
4. What made assessing sources difficult? Easy?
5. How did your sharing partner react to your findings?
6. What changes in opinion or ideas did your sharing partner reveal?
7. Let's generate a next step in this research project: What new data would you want to gather? Why? How would you adjust the research question.

### ***Focus group coding/analysis***

Preferably, facilitators can record the discussion for later coding. If not, please assign somebody to take notes by recording as many direct phrases from students as physically possible.

Following the focus groups, each tape will be open-coded using the following categories:

- Past uses of Wikipedia
- Messaging about Wikipedia
- Experience researching
- Surprising findings
- Experience sharing
- Changes in the sharing partners' opinions
- Future research intent
- Changes in relationship to Wikipedia

The open codes will be tallied and displayed in the final report.

An overall assessment of the codes from each class will be made and summarized for each course.

An overall comparison of experiences across courses will be made in paragraph form with citations to specific quotes.

### ***Coding process details***

1. Tape will be transcribed word-for-word
2. Each speaker's comment should be placed in a single spreadsheet cell, organized in a column
3. Codes for each comment should be placed in their own cells, stacked horizontally to the right of each statement from the transcript
4. Totals of codes can be made in each column.