Moving out of your sandbox

When your article has a few solid, well-sourced paragraphs giving a good overview of your topic, it's time to move it into Wikipedia proper.

Wikipedia is all about setting your knowledge free into the community. You may be anxious, but don't spend too much time editing in your sandbox. Being part of Wikipedia means contributing and engaging with the community and its content.

It's also much easier to fix problems early, when an article is still small, than to try to repair problems in a large article that is added all at once. It may seem counter-intuitive, but the best time to share your work is shortly after you've started writing!

How to move your article

1. First, think of a title for your article. Look at similar topics to find an appropriate name. Don't use an essay format, or title it with a question. It doesn't even have to be a sentence. The best title is usually just the simplest statement of what the article is about!

Use natural English, blank spaces between words, and capitalize only the first letter and proper nouns. Don't omit words.

Good:
Family structure in the United States

Not good:
FamilyStructureInTheUnitedStates, Family_structure_united_states, A historic view of how family structures in the United States have changed through time

2. Go to your sandbox article by clicking "Sandbox" in the upper right navigation links. In the "More" pulldown menu, choose "Move".

3. You'll load a new page, with a box in the center. At the top of this box, it will say "Move page:" and the name of the page you are about to move, "YourUserName/sandbox". Beneath that, you'll see "To new title" and a dropdown menu. "User" is the default setting. You'll want to click it and change it to say (Article) instead.

4. Take the title you'd like your new article to have, and type it into the "To new title:" input box that currently says "YourUserName/sandbox".

5. In the "Reason:" box, explain the reason for the move. For example, "I'm moving my sandbox article into Wikipedia."

6. Click the gray "Move page" button. You're done!

Did it work?

To move a page into Wikipedia (or create a new article directly) your account must be at least 4 days old with at least 10 edits. If you aren't able to move the page yourself, you can ask another editor to do it for you.

Did you make a mistake?

If you find a typo in the headline of your article, or decide to change the title, you can't simply edit the page to fix it. You'll have to "move" the page again, following these same steps but adding a new, correct title to the "To new title" box. You can do this right away. Don't worry about your old page, it will automatically disappear.

What happens now?

Your page is now living on Wikipedia, where it can be found by anyone looking for the information you've contributed! Editors may appear and begin to help you build your article, or change what you've done. Don't panic! This is all part of Wikipedia's collaborative process. Other editors will be grateful for your contributions, and use them as a base to improve your article and the encyclopedia as a whole.