



Communication to the non-scientific public using the Wikipedia Free Encyclopedia

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During the second half of the 2017 Fall semester at ETH Zürich, I have taught a M.Sc. level reading seminar on the broad topic of Heat and Mass Transfers in Magmatology (651-4931-02L). Three first semester and 6 third semester M.Sc. students have attended the course. All students had a B.Sc. degree in Earth Sciences, but were registered in the Institute of Geochemistry and Petrology Institute or the Institute of Geophysics.

By groups of two, students have read a scientific article, presented it orally to classmates and answered to questions from the peers. During the last two classes, students have edited and created Wikipedia free Encyclopedia pages in relation to their article's topic. Students really enjoyed creating a Wikipedia page, even if they didn't use it or didn't trust the Wikipedia content. They had little experience with communication to a non-scientific public and thought this exercise was challenging. Evaluations show that writing about a scientific paper in a Wikipedia page is a less efficient learning technique than reading a scientific article, presenting it orally or discussing it in a group. However, it is an efficient way to practice writing and public communication skills.