What makes a quality article?

A quality Wikipedia article is the result of a well defined structure, encyclopedic content, and an active community:
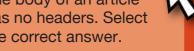
> **Structure:** Providing a clear article structure helps readers find information and assists editors in keeping all aspects of a topic well organized. One way to learn about structure is to study featured articles, Wikipedia's finest articles. You can access all featured articles by going to the Wikipedia main page. At the bottom of **Today's featured article**, click **More featured articles**. Then scroll down to **Contents** and select the subject that interests you.

Most quality articles have the following structure:

> **Lead section** that summarizes the key points covered in the article. Note that the lead section is without a header.

> **The body** of the article follows the lead section and includes specific headers and subheaders. A geographic location, for example, might have the following headers: history, geography, climate, economy, civic administration, demographics, and culture.

> **Appendices** and **footnotes** appear after the body of the article. These may include bibliographies, links to other Wikipedia articles, notes and references, relevant publications, and websites.

Try it!

1. The body of an article has no headers. Select the correct answer.

   ☐ True

   ☐ False

2. What aspects should a quality encyclopedic article have? Select the correct answers.

   ☐ Verifiable sources

   ☐ Neutral point of view

   ☐ How-to instructions

   ☐ Summary, body, footnotes

Content: Many Wikipedians consider content the most important factor in judging an article's quality. To ensure consistent quality, the Wikipedia community created these four guidelines.

> **Provide Sources:** Writers are encouraged to provide sources for further information. Every fact should be verifiable by a reliable source.

> **Neutral Point of View:** Articles must be written fairly, without bias, and present previously published notable views.

> **No Promotional Content:** Promotional material, how-to instructions, resumes, and sales catalogs do not belong in Wikipedia.

> **No Original Research:** It is not appropriate to include your own new ideas on a subject (Wikipedia calls this original research), or your personal opinions about a subject.

Community: All contributions to Wikipedia are freely licensed to the public. That means that no editor owns any article. All contributions can and will be heavily edited by many different users. In other words, everybody can join in the decision making process. The community also uses Discussion to agree on the content structure for the article. For times when consensus is hard to reach, check out the various options available at **Help > The Wikipedia community**. Some writers and editors have years of experience with Wikipedia and their experience can be a valuable resource for resolving conflicts.

I cannot find an article about this subject. Should I wait for someone else to start the article?

When you start your article you will need a place to work. Create your own workspace or "sandbox" where you can edit your article until it has the three elements.

To create your sandbox: Go to your User page> Click **Edit**> Write **[[User:<Your username>/Sandbox]] > Save page**> Click the link you just created. You are now in your sandbox!

Use the sandbox to write your article. Do not forget to click **Save page** when you are done editing. When you are ready, find another Wikipedia editor who might be interested in the topic. One way to find an editor is to look at the **View history** tab of an article on a similar topic and see who has contributed to that article. Leave a message on that editor's **Discussion** page with a request to review your article. When you are ready, copy the article content from your sandbox, go to the topic name you have chosen, click **Edit**, paste the content and save the page. Now, that you have created a new article, do not stop here. Link your article to other articles where your topic is mentioned.

Try it!
What are the three elements to incorporate in your new article? Select the correct answer.

- [ ] A summary, its notability, and a source

- [ ] A summary, a picture, and a link to another article

- [ ] A name, its notability, and a source