



# CTL Featured Assignment Form

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Name & number of course: CLA 101 / HIS 108 Greece

Name of assignment: Wiki Assignment

Class size: 41 students

Last time class was taught & when it will be taught again: *Spring 2015 (offered next in Fall 2016)*

Description of the assignment (e.g., when you give the assignment, if you scaffold the assignment):

*Throughout the semester, students in the course work together to build a course-specific wiki. The wiki includes all of the major concepts, key terms, and important historical events covered in the course. Each week of the semester, a new wiki page is posted and students contribute postings and edit each other's entries. The result is a comprehensive, student-created study guide that students can draw upon throughout the semester, and use as a review guide for exams.*

Learning goals of the assignment & briefly how they relate to the goals of the course:

*A major challenge in learning the history of the ancient Greek world is gaining a basic level of comfort and familiarity with names, dates and key concepts. Too often the mastery of these points becomes the focus of course. The wiki assignment provides a mechanism to ensure that all students develop a working knowledge of foundational materials; with this foundation established, class discussions, student papers, and examination essays are able to reach a higher level. Students are able to actively employ these terms and concepts as they engage in an analysis of the civilization. Their explorations reach a deeper level as a result. In short, the wiki provides a scaffold for all other assignments and activities in the course by providing students with the foundation necessary to engage in higher order analysis.*

What you like about the assignment & why you think it is effective:

*The wiki assignment provides a mechanism for the students to help each other master the material. It provides a structure for active engagement outside of the classroom, extending their learning and facilitating collaboration. Students see the power of democracy in action – by making just six posts each throughout the semester, students get to share in a rich and comprehensive review document.*

*The wiki assignment is particularly effective in this large introductory course that fulfills a GE requirement. Students at all levels and with widely varying interest, backgrounds, and abilities are enrolled in the course. The wiki helps to ensure that all students have a way to review and reinforce material covered in the readings, class discussions, and lectures.*

*Although class participation and active discussion is expected on a regular basis in the class, some students are less willing to participate in a larger class such as this. The wiki provides a lower-stakes opportunity for students to engage with the material and one another. The wiki also helps to develop confidence – working with the wiki throughout the semester, students master the terminology and basics that give them the confidence to contribute to class discussions.*

*As I have used the wiki assignment in this class over the past few years, I have seen the quality of class discussions improve and student essays have deepened. Students now confidently draw upon specific examples to develop, illustrate and support their own ideas.*

*PBWorks (the internet host that I use for this assignment) offers a free and easy to use workspace for the wiki. I receive e-mails that document changes to the wiki, allowing me to grade student contributions individually and provide feedback. The work involved for the instructor is minimal; for students it is invaluable.*