

Title: Project-based Learning with Wikipedia in an Advanced Russian Class

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Abstract:

The incorporation of project-based and community-based language learning has recently been widely implemented into the educational process. Such an approach goes beyond a regular classroom and creates a socially meaningful result for language learners, thus increasing students' engagement and motivation.

This paper discusses the benefits and challenges of a semester-long language project designed by the instructor for a Russian for the Social Sciences class with the aid of a librarian. Advanced learners research, write, and publish a series of Russian-language Wikipedia pages about notable African-Americans whose lives were connected with Russia. In undertaking this socially meaningful project, students improve their productive skills in the target language. In addition, the production of publicly available online resources that enrich the Russian-language internet serves as a reward for the students and thereby motivates them to perform at their best.