

PB Works

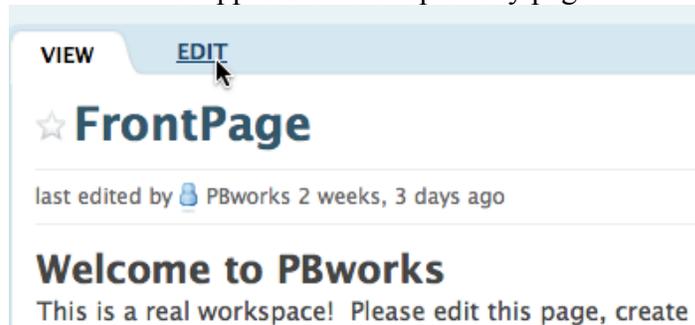
PB Works is a great tool for constructivist learning activities. It is a way for students to create and share artifacts in a safe, cohesive online classroom environment.

Building a wiki

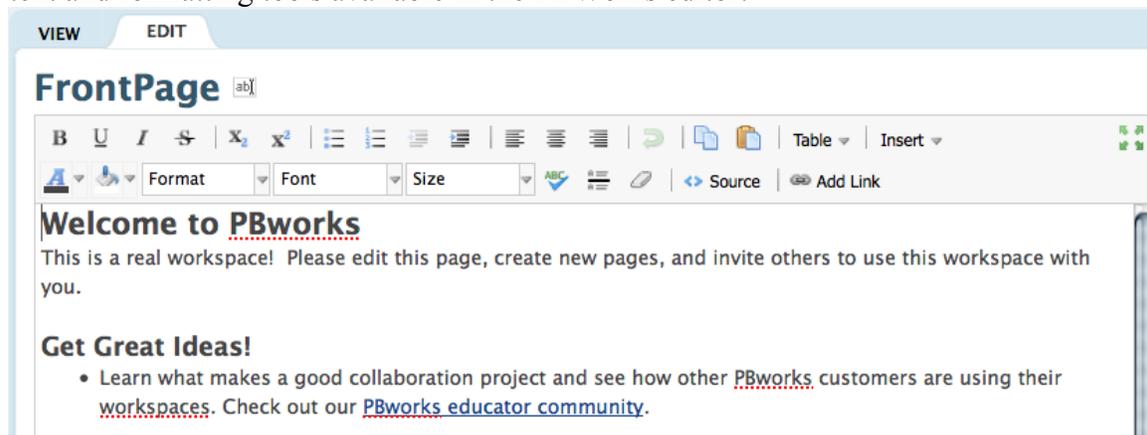
A wiki is a blank slate – essentially it is a series of Web pages that you create and edit. The revision history feature offers an easy additional way for instructors to grade and provide feedback on classwork.

Editing a wiki page

Editing a wiki page is the most basic thing you can do, and it is as simple as clicking the EDIT link that appears on the top of any page in PBWorks:

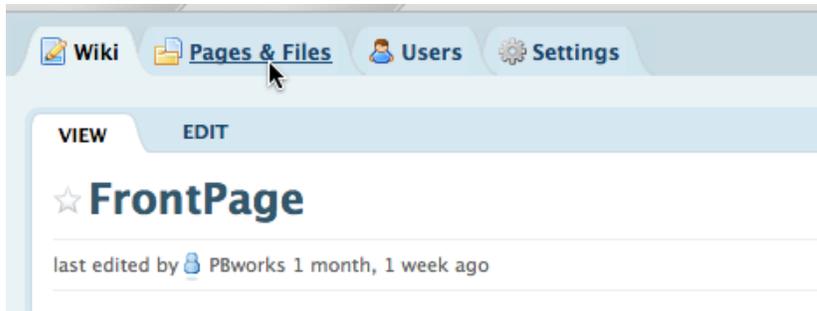


The editing interface looks like this. If you are familiar with the editing tools of Microsoft Word or any other modern document editing software, you should be familiar with the text and formatting tools available in the PBWorks editor:

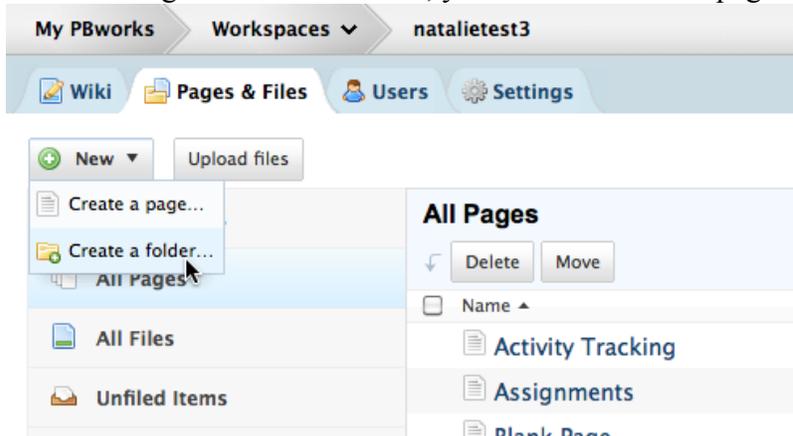


Adding and deleting pages

Editors have the ability to add and delete pages throughout the wiki. The easiest way to do so is to navigate first to the Pages & Files tab at the top right:



From the Pages & Files interface, you can create a new page or folder:



You can also Upload files (most file types are accepted). Whenever you either create a page or upload a file, you will be asked if you wish to create or upload the item within a previously created folder.

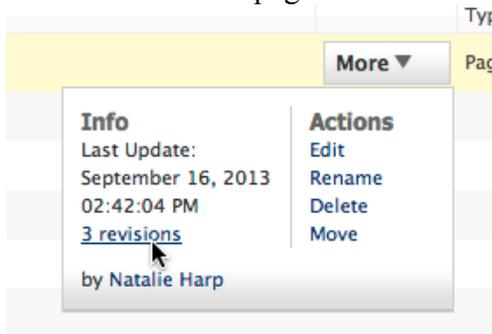
If you want to move an item after it has been created or uploaded, you can do so by accessing the tools available at the page level in the Pages & Files interface:



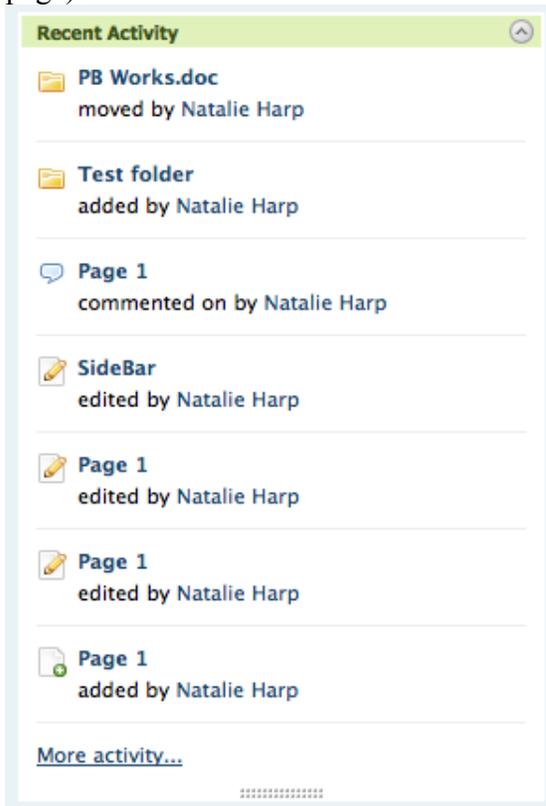
Revision History

The revision history is your go-to tool for quickly assessing student contributions to the wiki. There are two ways that revision history is accessed: at the individual page level, and at the overall wiki level.

To access the page level revision history, first access a page from the “Pages & Files” interface (see above), then click on the “More” button. A drop-down menu will give you a link to access the page revisions:



To access the revision history across the entire wiki, first navigate to the “Recent Activity” box on the right-hand portion of the screen (will be visible from any wiki page):



Click on the “More activity...” link to view a complete list of all revisions across the wiki, starting with the most recent. You can also view and filter by other types of activity, like file uploads and comments.

Tips for wiki building for course work

- Set up the wiki home page, being sure to include an overview of the purpose of the wiki and any required activities associated with it.
- Give students “writer” privileges on the wiki. This will allow them to “edit pages and revert pages to previous versions. They can also upload new files and create new pages. Writers cannot perform any action that cannot be undone.” (from the PBWorks help pages)
- Start with a scaffolded structure. There are a couple of ways to do this; any or all may be employed:
 - Set up a “sample” student contribution; this can be in the form of an actual student contribution from the past (with permission).
 - Set up blank or generic pages or folders for each student or team in the class to use. The students should then be instructed to only work within their assigned pages or folders.
- Use the sidebar to reinforce basic directions or rules for the wiki. The sidebar will appear throughout the site.
- Encourage sharing and participation. Students can be encouraged to look at the work of other students in the class, and be required to comment meaningfully on, say, the work of at least three others (though no tool exists to easily assess this activity, aside from the global “Recent Activity” tools).