Editing Wikipedia: The Essentials

First, create your account:

- Go to: https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Special:CreateAccount&returnto=Main+Page
- Pick a username that is memorable to you, unique and not offensive or misleading to others

Decide what you would like to do:

- To create a new page, consider using Wikipedia’s Article Wizard: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Article_wizard
  - Make sure your topic is Notable: you should be able to find significant coverage of your topic in reliable sources
  - Attempt a Neutral Point of View: avoid unnecessary adjectives, and focus on verifiable information rather than your own perspective
  - Cite your sources!! Articles without citations will likely be slated for deletion
- Or, you can edit existing articles! This is great practice to give you a feel for how editing works. You can search for articles to edit by getting involved with different project groups, such as WikiProject Feminism: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:WikiProject_Feminism
  - Reasons to edit an article include:
    - Rephrasing, copyediting to improve grammar, clarity, or to more accurately represent a source
    - Requesting a citation by adding the {{citation needed}} tag
    - Repair a dead link
    - Correcting inaccuracies
    - Adding additional points of view

Other Guidelines and Tips:

- Write and edit articles in good faith, and assume good faith in others. Wikipedia is a valuable resource that we all use, and it benefits no one to make things up.
- Again, cite your sources! Wikipedia relies on valid secondary sources to verify its information. Similarly, do not use copyrighted images or other material without permission from the copyright holder.
- Be polite, don’t be afraid to ask for help when needed, and try not to despair if your article is tagged for deletion
- For more tips and helpful links, visit http://libguides.tru.ca/wikiedit

Finally, practice! Learn as you go! And have fun!