How do we teach newcomers to write a Wikipedia article by "filling the blanks" method

The problem we want to solve

- **Editathon for new comers are sometimes such an abstract concept:** When we host a workshop, there is a high possiblity that new comers who are first-time contributors of Wikipedia are not familiar with how the proper structure of a Wikipedia article should look like. Furthermore, some of the contributors may feel paralyzed when we ask them to write an full article out of scrach.

- **Longterm contributors may explain in too much details and many different ways to do the same things that confuse new comers:** Most of the active users in Wikipedia are eager to share their passion of how to write an article, but sometimes eveyone use different method to achieve the same goals. It may be a good because that shows the diversity of the community, but sometimes it also creates confustion and burdomesome feeling for the workshop participants.

How much impact it creates

- **Local History and Places Editathon:** This tool was first developed in Chia-yi (嘉義, a county in Southern Taiwan), by Chia-Yun(嘉耘). She is a local Wikipedian who is working in local government. She wanted to launch an initiative to invite local historians and students to increase the content of local geology and history. There are 14 participants in the first workshop which applied this tool. The second workshop is in July, which got 25 participants use the method.

- **Art+Feminism Editathon:** After the local workshop, Reke adopt this method to help new contributors in Art+Feminism editathon to use this method in March, 2017. There are two different version in this workshop for different topics (artists & scientists). Over 30 participants adopt this method.

- **Future Application:** We may improve this document for this year collaboration WikiProjects, such as *Women in Red* and *WikiProject Scouting* in Chinese Wikipedia

What are the new comer's feedback

- **New comers like it in the way...**

> Feel great sense of achievement after complete the whole process.

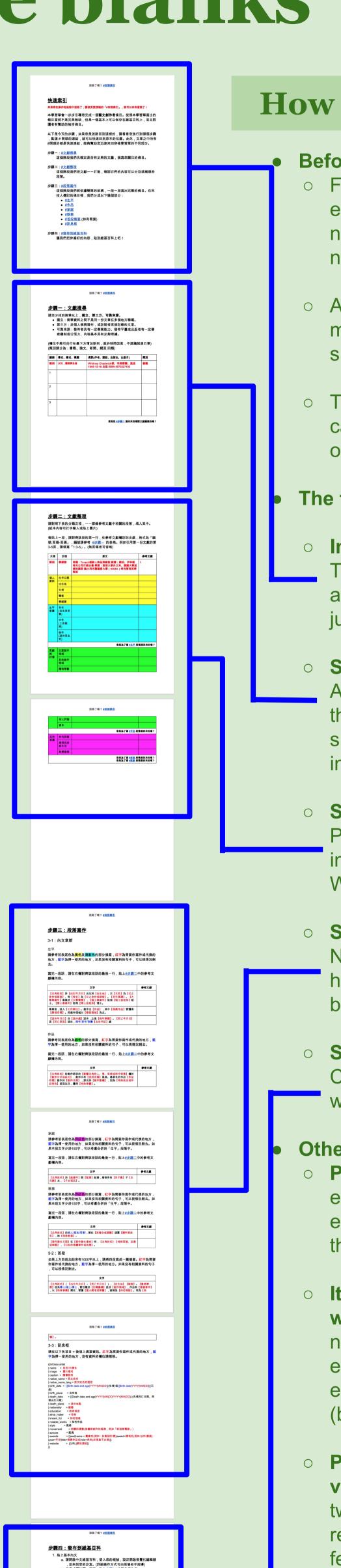> It is so awesome after I made to the last step and publish it on Wikipedia!

> I can clearly learn about the editing process on Wikipedia.

- **New comers think it could be better if...**

> You can add some of the screenshot and captions

> Font too small and need better design.

> Reduce the amount of hyperlink and pages, it takes many scrolls to check

How it works

- **Before we start:**
  - Find some volunteers who are familiar with the way to edit Wikipedia. The ideal ratio is 1 Wikipedian with 4 new comers. If a Wikipedian need to look for over 12 new comers, he might not cover all of them.
  - Ask all of participants to bring their laptop. This method works best on wider screens then tablet of smart phones.
  - The environment need to equipped with internet so we can use the Google spreadsheet, and upload the outcome to Wikipedia in the end.

- **The tool contains 5 sections - Intro + 4 Steps**
  - **Intro of this tool:** This page is to demonstrate how the interface works, and give a brief guidance and how to use hyperlinks to jump among the steps.
  - **Step 1 - Search the references:** Ask new editors to find relevant sources online or from the physical papers or books in the editathon event space, and then copy-paste the bibliographic information.
  - **Step 2 - Rearrange the reference:** Put the sentences from the reference found in Step 1 into the sections complied with the anatomy of Wikipedia articles.
  - **Step 3 - Write content of paragraphs:** Now try to rewrite the information of the references in his/her own words. This is also the step that Infobox blanks are filled.
  - **Step 4 - Publish the content to Wikipedai:** Copy and paste the new content onto Wikipedia and wikify for the final touch.

- **Other Context:**
  - **Personal tutorial is necessary:** We demonstrate each steps with short walk through and then follow up each new comers by the skilled Wikipedians. Normally the first two steps takes longer.
  - **It's all optional, user can choose what they want to write:** The structure (anatomy) the steps provides is not necessarily needed to be followed by the user, everything is optional. It's just a quick tutorial for new editors to learn how the format of a specific category (biography, local area) looks like on Wikipedia.
  - **Prepare reference of specific topics before hand is very helpful:** In Chinese Wikipedia, we need at least two third-party references for a single article. If the reference is prepared on site, then editors may take fewer times in step 1.
  - **To better cotrol the time for event organizer:** Because it seperate the steps and, the organizers can just put reasonable timeslot in each step, and so enhance the successfully create their first article in the editathon.

Happy to share!