Why the High School Student Became a Wikipedia Editor...

"Like"... "add"... grow some pixel veggies... play pixel poker... there's gotta be sth more interesting to do on the Internet!!!

Sounds good... but wait a second! I'm not a writer! I don't even have a high school diploma! How could I contribute to Wikipedia???

"There is: WIKIPEDIA, the free encyclopedia. Ever thought of writing an article about something?"
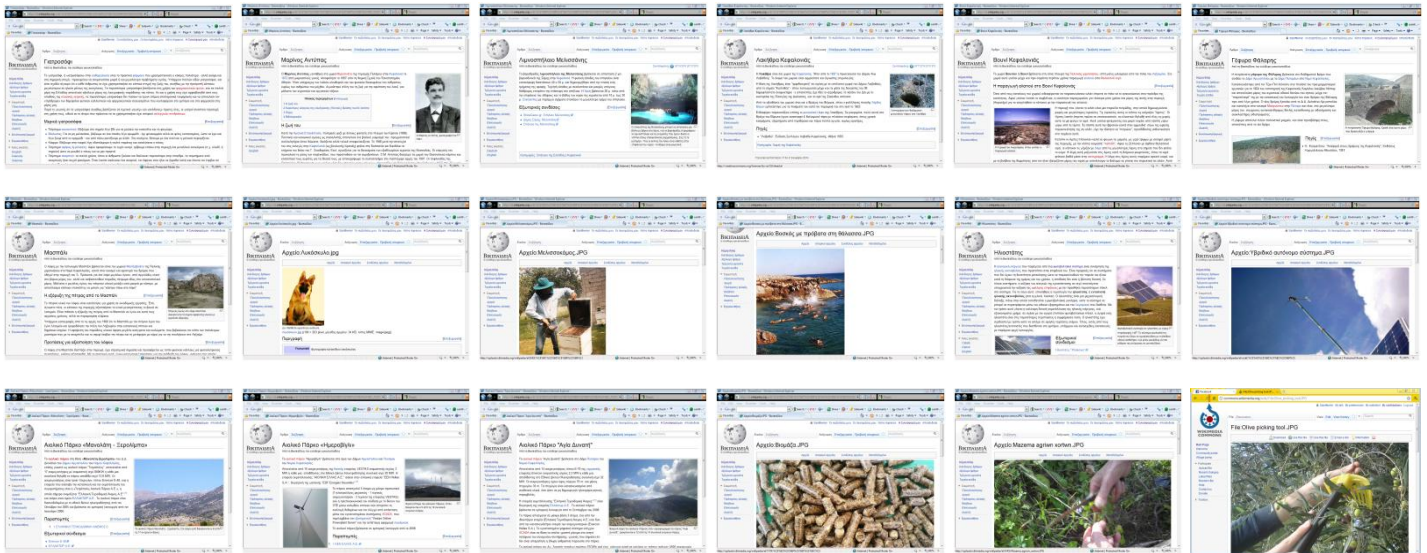
"Anyone can contribute to Wikipedia: that's why it's called the free encyclopedia! The students of the Evening High School of Argostoli have already contributed 30 articles and 25 photos..."

```
Name: Asimina Theofilatou
Profession: Teacher of Computer Science & Technology
School: "Esperino Gymnasio Argostoliou" (Evening High School of Argostoli)
Location: town of Argostoli, on the island of Kefalonia in Greece
MISSION: to spread "Filomatheia"; that's the Greek word for "love for
learning"☺
```

And what better way to encourage learning, than an encyclopaedia... and what better encyclopaedia, than the free encyclopaedia that anyone can edit: Wikipedia!

We started writing on "Βικιπαίδεια", the Greek Wikipedia, in February 2007, when we were working on a project on Renewable Energy Sources. While looking for information on RES installations on our island, we realized that Greek Wikipedia had very few articles on the topic. So, we decided to share the knowledge we had gained and the photos we had taken by writing articles for Wikipedia. Since then, all our projects have included Wikipedia in one way or another: we will either make a new article, or add text/photos to existing articles. Here is a "gallery" of some contributions:

Using Wikipedia in the classroom and for homework has been very productive and rewarding for our students, across a number of disciplines. First of all, they learn how to gather valid information from books, journals and other reliable sources and compose their own piece of work on the given subject. Secondly, they practice typing and learn the basics of formatting and working in a "wiki" environment. Last but not least, the end result is something they can be proud of... and yes, that's something worth posting and "liking" on Facebook!

In January 2011 I wrote a "Concise Guide for Beginner Wikipedia Editors", to help my students "break the ice" and put behind their fear of incompetence. The guide has been a success: apart from our school, it has been distributed to students and teachers at two educational conferences in Greece. Anyone can download it (in Greek) at **http://wikimedia.gr/Theofilatou-Guide.pdf**

The clip art "Sleep on Computer.jpg" was created by Wikimedia Commons user "Snapperhat"