Wikis & “Did I Miss Anything”?

Jason B. Jones
jason.b.jones@gmail.com
7 May 2009
My classes keep notes on a wiki.
• No one takes notes in lit classes
• Notes are epistemologically weird.
Epistemologically weird

• They’re “my notes”
• They’re also a record of a *common* intellectual event: the work of a seminar
• Risks
  – Inattention
  – Lack of preparation
Traditional notes

- Hard to improve, because they’re private
- Onerous to take up all those notebooks

Enter the wiki . . .
Wiki-based notes

• Notes are public (to whatever “public” you choose to address)
• Students collaborate to make the best record possible
• Faculty can offer—and receive—real-time feedback on whether course material was understood.
Lessons Learned

• Structure helps!
  – Wikis are still unfamiliar to virtually all of my students
  – Many don’t have a strong sense of what things to record.

• Assessment challenges
  – Need to show that you’re reading it
  – Need also to give them time to work it out for themselves
One-stop resource

• http://jbj.pbworks.com/CCSUpresentation