

Encyclopedias are regarded as bastions and repositories of information. For example, for a Steelers encyclopedia, you might ask experts to name the 50 most memorable things about the Steelers. For example, for a Steelers' encyclopedia, you may wish to research and write the entry for "The Immaculate Reception" before you research and write the entry for "William Gay." Compose your entries. You can choose to format your entries however you like. Some encyclopedias require longer entries ranging from 1000 to 2000 words, while other encyclopedias only ask for 300 to 400 words per entry. All encyclopedia entries should contain basic journalistic information; this means writing an entry that appropriately, sufficiently and concisely provides information to the "five-Ws": who, what, where, when and why. While the most widely recognized encyclopedias -- Britannica, World Book, Wikipedia -- focus on general knowledge, many individually produced encyclopedias focus on specific topics, such as states, sports teams or even persons. Because general knowledge encyclopedias are compiled by teams of hundreds of researchers and authors, it is more realistic for an individual to write a topic-specific encyclopedia. For example, rather than simply writing about sports or even American football, it would be better to focus on a specific aspect of American football such as the defense, offense or special teams, or a position such as linebacker, quarterback or wide receiver, or even a team such as the Cardinals, Giants or Steelers. For example, if you want to write an encyclopedia on the Pittsburgh Steelers, you might identify people such as former players, news reporters that cover the team, announcers that work at the game, and season ticket holders. Request your identified experts to submit to you a list of the most memorable features of your selected topic as possible. Writing an encyclopedia, therefore, requires countless hours of preparation and research. These will include people ranging from academics at a university to journalists to aficionados. Select a maximum number of features you want your experts to identify, probably between 25 and 100. Compile a master list of potential subjects out of all the experts' submissions. Research the most commonly repeated subjects first to create your entries. Alphabetize your entries to make it easy to navigate your encyclopedia. Log the frequency with which some subjects are repeated. Identify the experts of your specified topic. Choose a topic on which your encyclopedia will focus. As there are hundreds of general information encyclopedias, the more specific your topic is, the better. Identify as many experts as possible