

AP Biology: Words of Wisdom

“If I have been able to see further, it was only because I stood on the shoulders of giants.” Sir Isaac Newton

Words of Wisdom from your teacher:

Biology is all around us and helps explain much of the world. This is going to be an exciting year! Some days will be easier than others, but don't give up...hang in there! My goal is for everyone to succeed in this class and on the AP test. I will do my best to ensure that; you also have to do yours. Here are a few suggestions that will make that possible.

1. **Understand the big concepts:** By knowing the big concepts, you can fill in the details. It's much easier to fit everything together if you have a grasp of the main ideas.
2. **Be persistent and consistent:** Studying on a regular basis helps reinforce the discussions in class and long-term memory. You should read the textbook prior to class (follow the schedule given) and then review notes taken that same day.
3. **Use study tools and aids:** If you don't "get" something the first time, keep trying. Use other resources (other textbooks, reliable websites, CD-ROMs) and come to me for help. Get AP review books and take the practice tests. Use the online learning center for your textbook. Complete the "Review the Chapter" questions and "Testing Yourself" sections at the end of each chapter.
4. **Know your vocabulary:** Learning science is like learning a foreign language with over 1,000 new vocab terms to know. If you can understand the terminology, you'll be better equipped to answer questions.
5. **Study the diagrams:** There is frequently a wealth of information in diagrams. Don't skip them! Read the captions and understand what they are illustrating.
6. **Get sleep!** This may be difficult, but it is THE most important component of learning. Studies have shown that information is transferred into long term memory during sleep!

Words of Wisdom from those who have gone on before:

7. **Don't procrastinate or you will FAIL!**
8. **Read the chapters!** I know there's a ton of work due the day of the test, but don't wait to do it the night before. Make sure you **understand every part of the study guide.**
9. **Read the book,** take notes, and study...a lot! AP bio will take up a lot of time...about 15 hours a week.
10. **Don't get behind on video lectures.** If you don't watch them when they are due, they will stack up. They actually do explain the material!
11. **Always do homework and labs!** If you are bad at tests, these will save your grade.
12. **Always do the extra credit online quizzes for the chapters.** Extra credit points on a test you aren't ready for is a big help.
13. **Get a supplemental study guide for the AP** and study throughout the year. Know about cellular-level functions and read over the chapters you might not get to in class, especially the one about embryology.
14. **Even though Abe takes work one day late, turn it in on time!**
15. **Take advantage of test retakes!** Get your lazy rear back to the classroom and retake them!
16. Do assignments/projects right when you get them; they'll start to stack up!
17. **Check the class website;** it will help you stay organized.
18. **Extra credit is your friend.**
19. Use the summer to start studying.



20. Yahoo Answers has EVERYTHING!
21. Make friends with smart people that can help explain the concepts to you!
22. **Study diagrams and charts first.**
23. Study a lot, read the book, get an AP study guide, review the notes, and be ready for weekends to become non-existent.
24. **Don't procrastinate!** This class is very fun if you commit your time to it, but it will bite you in the rear if you don't use your time wisely.
25. Don't slack off; it will hurt your grade.
26. **This is an easy class as long as you study adequately.** Read the textbook because the answers are taken directly from the text.
27. Don't think you can fool Abe; she is a NINJA!
28. **Do your vocabulary!** The exact answers for the vocabulary are either in the glossary or from the online review quizzes.
29. If you do sports, you may not get eight hours of sleep, but you can still sleep.
30. **Don't stress; it's really not that bad.**
31. **Study tests before you retake them** so you are sure you will do better.
32. If you are failing tests, don't worry, you can always retake them. I got a 62% on one test. When I retook it, I got a 98%.
33. **Go to the review sessions.** Seriously! They're fun, they help, and there is pizza!
34. **Read labs ahead of time and do the cookbook** so you are ready and don't waste time.
35. **Be self disciplined and independent;** there's lots of work and if you aren't motivated, you won't get it done!
36. Don't make Abe mad; she's too cool for you!
37. **Do the cookbooks for the labs,** and actually take the time to understand what you will be doing the next day.
38. **Don't take this class unless you plan on working hard and studying the material.**
This is not one of those classes where you can just pay attention in class and get by. You actually have to READ the book!
39. **Beware:** you will be dissecting pigs! It's awesome!
40. Know the vocab.

