# Advice for Introductory Biology Students

## 1. Lecture and textbook use

- Always go to lecture (M 4:10-5pm VLH, T + Th 9-10:20am VLH).
- Take thorough notes including equations and diagrams.
- Ask questions during or right after lecture or later by email or in person.
- Before lecture, skim relevant textbook sections to preview the concepts.
- After lecture, use the textbook to reinforce what you've learned in lecture.
- Read extra references put on reserve for you in the library or on the web.
- Read your email for updates on course information.
- Review material on the Courses Server.

## 2. Before coming to lab

- Read the entire lab handout for that week.
- Outline the procedures in your lab notebook to make your lab go smoothly.
- Make tables for data and observations as needed.
- Calculate solution recipes as needed.

## 3. During lab

- Annotate your lab handout with any changes in procedure noted on the board.
- Ask questions of your lab instructor and professors. That's what they're there for.
- Record all data and observations in your lab notebook.
- Think about what the results mean.
- Analyze data (depending on group or class data set availability).
- Start writing your lab report and get feedback from your lab instructor.
- Set a meeting time to finish the group report. Get your lab partners' full names.
- Participate and take notes during lab discussions.
- Ask questions of the professors regarding lectures.

## 4. After lab

- Work on writing your report while the lab is still fresh in your mind.
- Reread the introduction to the lab and lab report instructions before writing.
- Refer to the Lab Report Instructions handout (page Q-1) while you are writing.
- You can use the Biology Science Center tutors (Sun-Thurs 7-9pm in B5/B7).
- Carey or Ned can look over your first draft with you the day before it is due.
- Print out the final version the night before it is due.

## 5. In preparation for exams

- Outline your lecture notes to review facts and to see connections among concepts.
- Use the textbook to help clarify lecture topics.
- Check the Courses Server for sample types of test questions and other resources.
- Attend the review session when there is one.
- Ask questions of faculty and Carey.
- Organize a study group.
- Drop by the Biology Science Center (Sun-Thurs 7-9pm in B5/B7).
- Use the DoJo drop in tutoring center (http://web.reed.edu/academic_support).
- Use an Individual tutor (http://info.reed.edu/tutor/tutors.taf).

## 6. After getting your lab reports and exams back

- Read the examples of good lab reports (on bulletin board outside of B7).
- Review keys to exams (on bulletin board outside of B7).
- Ask for clarification, if needed, on your lab report and/or exam comments.

## Condensed version

- Come to lecture and take notes.
- Come to lab prepared to participate and get the most out of it.
- Produce quality lab reports.
- Study for exams using a variety of resources.
- Follow up after lab reports and exams are returned to you.

## We're here to help!

See pages C-1 and C-2 for contact information.

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***Bio102:***

***Peter Russell, Steve Arch, Suzy Renn (and Carey and Ned)***