

## AP Biology Summer Assignment

Welcome to AP Biology. I believe you will enjoy this class and its challenging curriculum. We will have opportunity to discuss, & learn new and insightful things in the world of Biology; we will learn how to write comprehensive essays in a mere 20-25 min, we will complete interesting college level laboratory activities, write lab reports good enough for publishing, and visit one or two places of interest here in Houston. I hope you are ready to get started on an exciting journey into the new world of Biology.

This summer, I would like for you to get a small head start. Read chapters 1-3. Chapter 1 will discuss the overarching themes of Biology that will be carried over though out year in this course. Chapter 2 will review the chemistry concepts you learned last year in chemistry, and chapter 3 will discuss the importance of water to our very existence.

I suggest that you take notes on your reading. The most effective reading is not done in a hurry. With biology, you will come across words you have not used before, but these words are important. If you are to gain an understanding of the concepts, you must know the vocabulary well. Because of the increase in new vocabulary, reading Biology will be a slow but productive process. Mark in your book -they are yours. Circle, underline, highlight important concepts, vocabulary words, outcomes, inputs etc. Then get a spiral note book. Label this note book --- Reading Notes. Here you will take notes on your reading..... more on this later. (Books are available in the business office)

After you have read your chapters, begin writing your essay on water. Use the essay rubric as your outline for writing. Elaborate and explain each point clearly. Be concise and to the point. There is no need for "flowery" writing. You need only answer the question, explain concepts or elaborate with examples of the concept in action. You do not need to restate the question, but answer it in complete sentences. There is no need for an introduction - just get to the business of answering the question.

### Summer Assignment Summary

1. Read the first 3 chapters in your book
2. Take notes on these chapters
3. Write the essay on Water and the fitness of the environment

Your essay is due the first day of school; additionally bring any questions you may have to class the first day of school. The essay and your questions will be the basis for a class discussion on essay writing. This will be the first grade of the six weeks, so make sure you have it the first day of school. As your understanding of writing a great essay grows, you will have opportunity to re-write essays, but do your very best the first time, and your work load will not be as great.

1996: (<http://apbio.biosci.uga.edu/exam/Essays/html/index.html#subject>)

The unique properties (characteristics) of water make life possible on Earth. Select three properties of water and:

- a) for each property, identify and define the property and explain it in terms of the physical/chemical nature of water.
- b) for each property, describe one example of how the property affects the functioning of living organisms.

You will find the rubric outline for grading in the website above under the subtopic: Biochemistry: the Question was on the 1996 exam.