AP Biology

Summer Assignment

Mrs. Mostowy

Hello new students:

Welcome to AP Biology! This document describes the **summer assignment** which is meant to provide you with an early opportunity to engage with some of the course content when you have free time over the slower summer months. The purpose of this assignment is to ensure that you have adjusted to the rigor, reading requirements, and the meticulous nature of the course and text. **This assignment is designed to be low-tech. You will need the physical textbook (Campbell Biology) as well as paper & pencil.** Thank you for doing your best work and I look forward to learning with you in the fall!

Sincerely, Mrs. Mostowy

1. Chapters 1-5:

Read Ch. 1-2 in the Campbell Biology text for <u>main ideas</u> and TAKE NOTES. Read Ch. 3, 4 and 5 <u>very closely</u> and TAKE NOTES. There will be an exam on Ch. 1- 5 within the first three weeks of school. We will discuss the Ch. 1-2 material in class, but it will be done quickly since you have already been exposed to this information in previous courses. We will have thorough lectures on Ch. 3-5. Your notes for Chapters 1–5 will be due on the first Friday we come back to school. **Your notes need to be hand-written.** On average, I would expect about 5 pages of notes per chapter. One side of a sheet of paper is one page. The amount of notes will vary per student and per chapter. Please be neat with your work and make sure it is high quality, which means you are capturing many key points in your reading, including more than definitions of bold words, and covering all pages & paragraphs.

Drawing diagrams, adding color, and being creative are all wonderful ideas and encouraged, but not required. I will check your progress and give you feedback once we begin school. There is no single correct way to do this, and I will expect to see *your* best work that works for *your* learning style.

2. **Reflective Question-Writing:**

As you read and take notes on Ch. 1-5, please **complete the Reflective Question-Writing Table** on the attached document. This reflection asks that you dig deep into your thoughts on what this new learning makes you wonder. How do you see this knowledge connecting to your previous knowledge from other classes and experiences? What do you want to know more about?

3. **Ecology:**

If you want to get even more ahead, read Ch. 52-56 for the main ideas. This unit (ecology) will be all on your own and will take place in March & April. These chapters ARE on the AP Bio exam, but we do not have time to cover them in class. There will NOT be a quiz, exam, or lecture on ecology in our class, but it IS on the AP Biology exam. In March, you will receive a teacher-made study guide to help you with your ecology learning. This packet will be worth class points. For now, you may begin your own independent pre-reading and notetaking. Consider this part of the summer assignment to be OPTIONAL. There is nothing to turn in for this.

4. **Think:**

Develop a mental strategy for how you will manage reading and learning large quantities of material quickly and independently.

Consider these questions:

- Are you a note-taker? How would you take notes?
- Do you like to answer questions as you read or after you read?

- Do you read on your own without any supporting guides or materials?
- How would you use technology to enhance your understanding of your reading?
- Where do you like to read and study? With whom? By yourself?
- Do you prefer short reading sessions or long blocks of time?
- What distracts you when you are reading? How can you minimize those?
- How do you know when you truly understand something?
- What helps you most when learning feels overwhelming?
- Would recording yourself explaining concepts help you learn?
- How will stay organized and keep track of your reading and studying?

Knowing your own personal reading strategy will be one of the single most important keys to your success in this class! Your approach may change over time but be thoughtful and reflective about this task as the year progresses.

So…what is due and when?

Notes on Ch. 1- 5

Reflective Question-Writing Table

Both are due the first Friday we are back.

Please contact me if you have questions: dmostowy@uscsd.k12.pa.us

Reflective Question-Writing Table

Chapter #	Sample Reflective Question	Your Reflective Question #1	Your Reflective Question #2
1	What makes something "alive" and are there any exceptions to this definition?		
2	How can tiny chemical interactions inside cells affect the entire living world?		
3	How would life on Earth be different if water did not have its unique properties?		
4	Could another element realistically replace carbon as the basis of life?		

5	Could life exist without one of the four macromolecules and which would be the hardest to replace and why?		

Note on AI Usage:

AI should not be used for this assignment. This assignment is for you to do 100% independently.