

AP Biology Summer Assignment 2026-2027

DUE DATE - First Week of School

This upcoming year you will investigate in detail many of the concepts covered in your previous biology course. This assignment will help review your current understanding and allow you to make new connections. In this assignment you will **read the introduction and chapter one of “Survival of the Sickest”**. You will read about real life examples of biology concepts and these examples will help you review your prior knowledge but also give us great discussion points to use throughout the year.

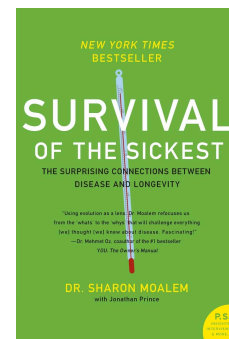
I am looking forward to meeting you this August! Be ready to work hard, ask questions, learn a lot and have a great year in AP Biology! If you have any questions about the assignments listed below please feel free to email me at afederoff@pgsd.org. *Have a wonderful summer - Mrs. Federoff*

Reading Assignment - “Survival of the Sickest” by Sharon Moalem

For this assignment you will read the Introduction and Chapter 1 of this book.

You can use [this pdf instead of getting your own copy](#).

Take the time to **enjoy** Dr. Moalem’s storytelling. As you read, you will record notes in a **dedicated notebook** that you will bring to class on the first day. Your notes will form the foundation for a Claim-Evidence-Reasoning (CER) writing activity during our first week together.



Step 1 - Set up your notebook

1. Use a dedicated notebook for this class (not loose paper). Label the cover with your name and "AP Biology - Survival of the Sickest Notes."
2. Create a header at the top of your first entry page: Date read, Section (Introduction or Chapter 1), and a one-sentence statement of the section's main idea.
3. Divide each page into two columns: Notes & Evidence (wider, left side) and My Thinking (narrower, right side).

Step 2 - What to record while reading

In the "Notes & Evidence" column, record:

- Key claim(s) the author makes - what is the author arguing? State them in your own words.
- Scientific evidence or examples used to support each claim (specific organisms, diseases, studies, or data mentioned).
- Vocabulary - any unfamiliar science terms with a brief definition.
- Connections to biology concepts you already know (evolution, genetics, disease, natural selection).

In the "My Thinking" column, record:

- Questions that arise as you read - things you are confused about or want to explore further.
- Whether you agree or disagree with the author's reasoning, and why.
- Any real-world connections - news, personal experience, or other reading that relates to the text.

You will upload pictures of your work to schoology on the assignment that will be opened on the first week of school. We will use your information you recorded during the first week of class as we learn how to write a CER.