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Listen to Mrs. Riedell when she says the test comes quick. Learn the info as she gives it to ya. Its much easier to put in the time over the course of the year and not cram at the end. Use her website its awesome. Use the edit notes and study book. Use everything and throw nothing away!!! Good Luck to you.

Future
Bio Students

Ashle Heier

If I could give advice any advice it would be read the chapters out of the book outside of class. Be an active learner. Also make sure you study for the test early enough in advance. Just make sure you keep up in class and stay on top of homework assignments.

Tips for AP Bio

- Read your textbook. This is not a joke!!! I'm not just saying this! It helps so much and you can grasp the material → ~~get~~ major help on tests, especially the AP test. Don't expect to just breeze through.
 - The tests are not just ~~just~~ "repeat the definition" questions. You have to actually understand the material and apply it to other things.
 - It's not that "~~scary~~" ^{scary} Like most AP classes, the 90-minutes of homework every night thing is just a scare tactic and exaggeration. You can handle this class, I promise. But you won't do so well if you don't work/care about it and try.
 - Ask to have parties and bring food on famous scientists' birthdays. Mrs. Riedell can't refuse those. ~~scary~~
 - Suck it up!! and actually try at this class. Now I'm repeating myself. That's all. Have a good year, whoever this is.
- Jackson Stankamp

IF you think that you are smart enough to never have to study in this class, then you're an idiot. You can make it through but you won't actually learn anything, trust me. I never study for anything, I never have and have never needed to. In this class you do. Mrs. Riedell is a GREAT teacher who will help you with anything at any hour (literally). If you need help, ask her for it. Study, Study, Study and ask as many questions as your brain can come up with.

-Dana Junker

Dear Incoming

Don't memorize. Link things you know to things you are learning. Whenever possible, apply it to things you see everyday, for example, when you look at an animal think about all you know about that animal. Say you saw a bird, you know that birds fly + so they have to be very light.

You don't have to learn every thing, learn how to link things together and when you come to something you don't know well, figure it out like a puzzle.

Study very hard for the class tests + you want have to study so hard for the Ap test. When reviewing for the Ap test read the bold words in the book. If it puzzles you, read as much as you need to to understand.

When Mrs. Rieffel puts "money" on a subject pay attention + star it in your work book.

Good Luck!
Shan Chesbrough

Dear next year's AP Bio class,

First off, this class is awesome, so congrats for taking it. But unfortunately this letter isn't supposed to be filled with stories about how cool AP Bio is. So...

For me, the hardest part was second semester. The pace picks up really really fast. It's really easy, if you procrastinate (and I seriously procrastinate) to reach a point where you feel lucky to even skim the chapter. That stinks, so it helps a lot to read your book. If you already have the chapter read when Mrs. Riedell starts giving notes, you will definitely understand the material by the end of a chapter. You really can't go wrong if you read the book.

OK, but honestly, the book is pretty long. It was pretty easy to read the one chapter for our unit on photosynthesis, but when we did the Ecology unit in a week and started rushing to cram stuff in, it was basically impossible to read the long dense chapters in such a short time. So in retrospect, it might be a good idea to get a head start on the reading; get some of it done in the slow early months so you don't have to read chapters about every body system in the week before AP Tests.

Also, while I was reading the chapters about every body system in the week before the AP test, I

realized how awesome the AP study guide (commonly called the "Holtzclaw and Holtzclaw" book) is. It does a really good job of covering the important points of the chapter without lasting 25 pages per section. It's not a substitute for the book; I wish I had read all the actual chapters. But it's the coolest review/cramming tool I used.

Also, Mrs. Riedell is awesome. She gives everyone a ton of help & review tools, and she will definitely let you have parties if you ask. So you should, cause there are no parties like AP Bio parties.

- Gabe

PS - Sorry about the handwriting

To Students:

Do the homework!

If it seems like you have plenty of time, use all of it! Do the assignment and actually read the book.

Study DNA especially!

Don't put things off! Do it early even if it's just to get it done.

If you think about it, it makes sense. Don't worry I was failing cuz I didn't try, but the second I was trying I was doing Great!
You Can Do it! $\frac{4}{6}$

-Erika-

Some advice I would have for incoming students is to pace yourself. Start studying early! You will know the chapter you're on so start working on studying as soon as you can.

On tests, do your best to eliminate answers you know aren't right. After you've narrowed your choices and still don't know, think logically. Choose what makes the most sense. If you're still not sure, break words apart into prefixes and suffixes, ~~and~~ find things that are related. Most of all, enjoy the class 😊

Marlee Braun

- Read the chapters: Every class tells you this, but it is especially important here. The material is simply too complicated to leave up to sparknotes.
 - Pace yourself: This is especially important if you actually follow the first part. Catching up on skipped material is very difficult, as each chapter builds off the last. The more you miss, the harder it gets to understand subsequent material.
 - Use the website: Mrs. Reidel has put together an excellent & comprehensive website that has a staggering amount of information. Even if you can't bring yourself to read every chapter, review using the multitude of powerpoints, games, etc.
 - Organize study groups: Not even counting the AP test, individual ch. tests are often brutal & detailed. Study groups are an excellent way to share knowledge, & lighten the tedious action of reading the book.
 - Utilize your teacher: Mrs. Reidel knows what she's talking about! Many of these concepts are very difficult, & Mrs. Reidel is excellent at clarifying & simplifying them. She is also very willing to help, so all you need to do is ask!
- Remember, understanding the material is far more important than just getting through the class. The more you actually know, the easier the AP test will be.
- HAVE FUN!

Hello future AP Biology Student.

When I started this class, I pretty much figured that I knew everything from bio 1 & 2 still. Yeah, I really didn't. 1.) REVIEW OLD BIO STUFF! There isn't really a whole lot of new material if you know what you learned during freshman bio.

2.) PAY ATTENTION DURING LECTURES! Sometimes it's hard to stay awake (I had it 7th period...brutal) but if you listen and jot things down while Mrs. Riedel is talking you won't regret it.

3.) PLAN TIME TO READ THE CHAPTERS AFTER THE LECTURES! This is a college level course, so prep, review, and study hard. 4.) MAKE CORRECTIONS TO ALL TESTS! (It's a major grade booster)

Good luck!

-Juliana Diddle

You should get a study group going, it will really help. Make sure to pay attention in class during the 1st couple weeks, it will really help. Study! Study! Study!

JZ

Dear AP Biology student,
Don't consider one chapter to be "more important" than another. The AP test is very comprehensive and covers every single chapter. Also, conduct as many study groups as possible; discussing concepts with friends solidifies your knowledge. Don't put off your studying until the last minute. Know your body systems!

Enjoy AP Biology.

Love,
Daniel Baer

STUDY!!!

and also perhaps

Study

a little bit.

Focus on each chapter, it will payoff in the end.
I would study a little bit every day, and start studying
for the AP test 2-3 weeks before the final test.
Have fun, it's a fun class, biology can be very interesting
when you pay attention. But Study!!! And Read the
book.



<3 ;

Dear A.P. Bioers,

The one thing I wish I would ~~have~~ have done differently is study more. There is so much to take in that not studying isn't an option. Especially don't cram for the test. It's just not possible. I also wish I had gone to more study sessions. Another thing, don't be afraid to ask questions if you don't understand something. The thing that did work for me were the online review crosswords and slideshows. ~~She has~~ Mrs. Riedell has so ~~many~~ many resources on her website. USE THEM!!! Also pay attention in class, because if she goes over it, it is bound to be on the test. I wish you all luck next year in A.P. BIO! ☺

Hello, I've been told to tell you what you should do to be ready for the test this year. The first and most important thing is to listen. Mrs. Riedell does. Know what she is talking about and will give you all the wisdom she can. Another thing is to use the resources you're given, the two summary books are pretty helpful. Third, don't cram, period.

Sincerely
E.C.

TO FUTURE AP BIO STUDENTS....

I wish I would have been more diligent about turning homework in ON TIME. I also would advise actually looking at the chapters as you go through them in class. Another thing I would recommend is to take advantage of study sessions set up by your classmates. The more you study, the better off you will be on tests (which are hard!) Good luck!

If I had to take this class again, I would definitely have started studying for the AP test earlier than I did. There is a LOT of information to know for the test, and it's impossible to learn it all in one night, or a few nights. A few weeks of light studying would be a lot less overwhelming than a few days of cramming.

People:

You're going to need to study a lot. Pay special attention to the stuff you don't go over in class. Start review for the AP early and really try to absorb the information. It comes sooner than you might think. Go to the review sessions for the individual tests.

Also, make sure you attend at least one of Reidell's sessions before the AP test. Never ever assume that you will do well on any test or that you have ever reviewed enough.

It's a fun class but you need to do the work.

Dear AP Bio Prospe,

If you want to drop it after the first week, that's okay -- this class is NOT for everyone. You don't have to be a science genius to do well in this class. I've always hated science (and Caldwell's Honors Chem class didn't help either), but I still pulled an A. I don't plan to do anything even remotely pertaining to science (I'm a humanity kid 😊) but I still found the material very interesting. The class is difficult, therefore it equates to being small. Riedell LOVES her AP Bio kids (way more than Zoology) so we can pretty much learn about / do (by do I mean different approaches to learning the material) whatever we want. Now, I'm supposed to be talking about tips -- the first one is ASK QUESTIONS. Don't be intimidated by uber smart kids. There are Coake & Jacksons everywhere. IF you don't get it -- ask. Ms. Riedell will not continue until you get it. Next, like all the letters will probably say ... Study. Not only to get an A, study because class will be more fun and interesting. A 45 minute lecture can be mega boring if you have no idea what's going on. Lastly, have fun with the class. You'll get just as much out of it as you put in.

Sincerely,

Professional AP Bio kid

(P.S. Read the friggen textbook)

I would say the biggest thing to do is, once you get into the swing of things w/ the pretty tough tests, be sure to finish strong. Once the AP exam is a month away, KEEP TRUCKING. Also, take advantage of the cumulative Test link on the textbook's website...

if you take one every Chapter & occasionally test over a bunch of chapters, that is great time management in preparation for the AP test. Make sure you understand concepts before you move on to learning the next thing - if you ever feel behind, ask questions, or you'll only feel more behind!

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