

## AP Bio Summer Assignment (2023-2024)

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Welcome to AP Bio!! We are looking forward to teaching a full-year of AP Biology starting in the fall. For the 23-24 school year we are expecting there will be five sections of AP Biology. Mr. Conneely will teach three sections and Dr. Knuth will have two sections.

**Your summer assignment for AP Biology consists of two assignments:**

### ASSIGNMENT #1: LETTER OF INTRODUCTION

This is a fast-paced course and we would like to jump right into the material in the first week of school. For this reason, we would like to get a head start and learn a bit about each of you before school starts. Your first assignment is to send a letter of introduction to your teacher via email.

**Due date: Tuesday, September 5, 2023. (you won't be able to submit this until you know what teacher you have)**

Your letter should follow the guidelines below:

- a. Use clearly written, full sentences. Do not abbreviate words like you would on Snapchat or text messages. Use spell check! This is professional communication and it is always important to make a good first impression.
- b. Address your email to your teacher's email address that is listed above.
- c. Make the Subject: AP Bio: Introduction to <Insert Your Name Here>
- d. Begin the e-mail with a formal salutation, like "Dear Dr. Knuth" or "Dear Mr. Conneely"
- e. Now introduce yourself (your name) and tell your teacher a little bit about yourself, like:
  - What name do you prefer to be called, especially important if it is something different or shortened from your name listed in Powerschool and if relevant, a pronunciation guide to your name. Also please let your teacher know your pronouns.
  - What year are you at AHS (Class of 2024 or Class of 2025) and some of the other courses you have taken or will be taking that overlap some content with AP Bio?
  - What was your previous biology experience (Honors/A level, biology at another school, Anatomy & Physiology, etc.)?
  - Why did you decide to take AP Biology?
  - Was there anything that you liked about your earlier biology class?
  - What are you looking forward to in AP Biology?
  - What are you most concerned about in AP Biology?
  - Please also include how you feel you learn best and if there are any specific accommodations that make learning easier for you.
  - Conclude with anything else about you that you would like your teacher to know. This information could be about what you like to do (hobbies, sports, music, interests, etc.), your family and pets, and/ or your job.
- f. End the email with a formal closing: "Cordially", "Sincerely", "Warm regards", etc. and add your name as if you signed a letter.

## **ASSIGNMENT #2**

### **SUMMER READING PRESENTATIONS DUE: First Week of School/ Second Day Your AP Bio Class meets**

We realize that everyone has different things going on this summer so please feel to either read (paper or digital book) or listen (audio-book) to the non-fiction book of your choice, maybe your family even wants to share in your summer work and you can listen to the book on a family road trip. :) In the link below is a list of books that may be of interest to you and they link to reviews on GoodReads. You don't have to pick from the list any non-fiction book that addresses biological concepts and interests you will be fine for this assignment. Note that many of these titles are in the AHS Media Center and because you are in AP Bio Ms. Kitsis will allow you to borrow the book for the summer

[AP Bio Book List](#)

**Part 1:** Read (or listen to an audiobook) a non-fiction book relating to biology.

**Part 2:** Create a google slide presentation about the book. You will submit the presentation and present it to your classmates on the second day of your AP Bio class. The presentation should be 3-4 minutes so make sure you make the presentation sufficient but also brief enough to complete it in 4 minutes. The presentation must include your personal reflections and connect what you have read in the book to one of the **4 Big Ideas of AP Biology**. These 4 Big Ideas are listed below. You might want to talk about which one(s) of these big ideas is best illustrated in the book or how the book connects together more than one idea.

### **Big Ideas of AP Biology**

**Big Idea 1: Evolution:** The process of evolution drives the diversity and unity of life

**Big Idea 2: Energy:** Biological systems utilize free energy and molecular building blocks to grow, to reproduce, and to maintain dynamic homeostasis

**Big Idea 3: Information :** Living systems store, retrieve, transmit and respond to information essential to life processes.

**Big Idea 4: System :** Biological systems interact, and these systems and their interactions possess complex properties.

If you have any questions, feel free to drop one of us an email. Have a great summer and we look forward to working with you in the fall.

Best regards,  
Dr. Knuth & Mr. Conneely