Study Tips for Biology!

Guided Notes

1. Go over each visual (illustrations, graphs, data tables, videos, etc) and read the captions, identify how they relate to the corresponding written section or topic. Write this on sticky notes.
2. Make flashcards for every new term for the section.
    a. Then, group those flashcards in the way that those words and concepts are interconnected. (For example, lay them all out and group them by say "parts of a cell" or "protein synthesis").
    b. After you've grouped them, pull one out. Ask yourself what is the impact of that item being missing (what will happen to the process?).
    c. Turn your flashcards into a concept map. Write out what the connections mean and how those items interact.
3. Draw a concept map for the chapter to develop your understanding of the relationships between the sections.
4. Answer the assigned questions from memory! Do this LAST.

Notes

- Take good notes in class (write down as much as you can), copy any drawings or illustrations, and ask clarification questions if the notes do not make sense.
- Jot down notes from pair-share conversations as well.
- If your teacher repeats him/herself, write it down!

Daily Study

- Best strategy: write a learning log. This is all about reflection, double-checking, and daily practice to answer the "why."
    - Go back through your packet and check your responses to make sure you've answered all parts of the question and have thorough answers. (This will also help you with be prepared for "2 for 2's.")
    - Look at or rewrite the lesson question for that day.
    - Ask yourself: Did we answer that question (fully or partially)?
    - Write out the evidence from the lesson to help answer that question or what we did to help answer the question for the day. Be very specific. Everything you did in class should be able to be connected to the question. If you're having trouble making those connections, that's a good time to talk to your teacher and ask them to review which specific part you are unclear about or attend after school biology tutoring.
    - Write down how the information from the day relates to the unit question. This will be more general than your information for the daily question. This information, if written down in each day's study, would make an excellent study guide for tests.

Studying for Tests

- In biology, every lesson has a question. Those questions are your study guide.
- Re-read any sections where you cannot answer the questions in your packet.
- Review the vocab flashcards. Re-read sections and notes related to any vocab that is unclear.
    - Do this for any end of reading questions or lesson questions: Write these out, put them in a bowl and pull them randomly. The questions won't be in order on the test, so you need to train your brain for that.
- Make models of the concepts (can you incorporate all of the terms?). You will see a lot of models on your tests, so this is a good study habit to form.
- For labs, ask yourself the following: Why did we do the lab? How does the lab relate to the unit you're studying? What were the scientific processes occurring during the lab.
- Explain the main concepts of the lessons to someone else in your own words, correctly, without looking at any materials. Try this over dinner with your parents/guardians!

Science Tutoring

Biology – Thursday – room 901 – 3:15-4:00