

May 22, 2015

To whom it may concern,

You are about to embark on a year long quest for scientific understanding. This will not be an easy class. As you read this you are probably nervous and excited about the class to come, as I was when I started two years ago. You may be thinking that signing up for AP Biology was a mistake. You may be apprehensive of the unknown. But let me assure you right now that this class is not a mistake to take. However, if you're expecting an easy A or not very interested in science, I suggest you walk out now. This class will be hard, but it will be rewarding. You are now entering college level science. If you can pass here, you can pass in higher education.

Your AP Biology class period will most likely be a lot of experiments. Mr. Tadlock does few, if any, formal lectures. The plus side of this is that you get more time for experiments. The bad side is that you will have to teach yourself a lot of the information. The AP Bio text book is a monster, so give yourself plenty of time to read. As you read take notes and answer Learning Objective questions as you go. You will learn to hate learning objectives, but they are a pretty decent way to get some studying done. Never try to do all your learning objectives the night before a test. (They are due on test days.) Give yourself time to answer them. That being said, we all know that life happens sometimes. If you do have to do learning objectives the night before look at the Lecture Outlines on Mr. Tadlock's teacher page. These Lecture Outlines pretty much follow the learning objective. Be aware that the Lecture Outlines are not as detailed as the text book so you may not learn as much. Don't rely on them as your only form of studying. Also if you're doing learning objectives the night before a test, it doesn't hurt to have a good friend in class. ;) You will probably get pretty close with your classmates because you and them are the only people who are having a similar AP Bio experience. Be friendly and try your best.

This class is really about trying. If you try hard you will succeed. Your grades will be counted as the grade higher for your GPA. For example, If you get a B in the class it will be counted as an A for your GPA. Plus the AP Bio state final doesn't even count for your class grade. So just don't sweat it but still try hard.

Good Luck

P.S. Evolution is cool, but the photosynthesis and molecular genetics units are bad maama jamas.