

Homework: Write a paragraph.

The letters below were written by last year's chemistry students. As you read them, mark up the text, using underlines, circles, and '?', just like you learned in other classes.

Letter 1

Dear Chemistry Student,

Walking into chemistry on the first day may seem easier than it actually is, however the leap from biology to chemistry is bigger than one may expect. If you didn't already know, chemistry is very different from biology. While biology is about the study of life, chemistry is about describing matter, describing how matter behaves and the role of energy (these three points are very important to remember). So this means that you may be learning very new material that you have not heard about before such as LOL charts and titration, or you will be touching on things you have learned a little about in middle school.

Some of the things you should expect out of chemistry is always working hard. Like any other class, if you work hard and put in a lot of effort, your grades will show it. If you decide to not work hard and slack off, this class will be very difficult. You should also expect a few low scores on tests or some bad quizzes, but the main thing you should focus on is learning from your mistakes and asking for help when you need it. You should also expect homework every night so it is important that you do not slack on your homework or it will pile up in the end making it even more difficult to catch up.

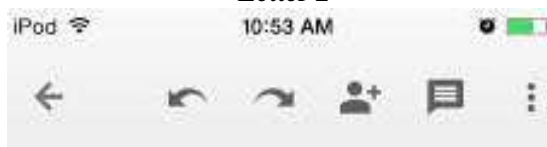
Some of the things that caught me off guard was how different chemistry was from biology. Although I knew they were very different from each other, I did not expect such a huge difference. While biology focuses on subjects like mitosis and meiosis, in chemistry you study more about molecules and electrons. Also, the amount of homework and quizzes caught me by surprise. In my previous science classes, I did not have as much homework and quizzes as I had in chemistry. Meaning that I had a lot more studying to do than expected. Although my scores were low at first, I learned from my mistakes and studied harder for the next one.

Some things you should know about chemistry is that if you are in Mr. Genest's class, you will have quizzes every Friday. Making sure you are studying and paying attention throughout the week will be very helpful. Also, if there is a chemistry test to study for, be sure to look over your old homework or even get a copy of the past homework to really help you prepare for them. If chemistry does get difficult for you be sure to self-advocate for yourself, Mr. Genest will always be available after school on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and sometimes during lunch.

I hope that throughout this little letter, my few tips will make you feel more prepared for the challenge ahead of you! Good luck chemist!

Sincerely, TY

Letter 2



Dear incoming freshmen, chemistry class with Mr. Genest is pretty awesome. From the unique teaching to the lab experiments.

Beware of the quizzes every Friday! (Meaning study constantly, and come in for help when needed) "I personally didn't ask for help as much as I should have, which put my grade in a lower range. But when I actually took time to set my social life to the side and ask for help, my grade improved a letter grade."

Some precautions you should take is:

- keep up with homework (It does affect your grade eventually)
- Be open to learning new things

Lastly, be sure to give your all in your work because Mr. Genest will go that extra mile to make sure you as a chemist, will go far in life.

Sincerely,

That awesome new Junior!!!!

Sincerely A.M.

Letter 3

Dear Chemistry student

The first thing about this class is that it is mainly about numbers and calculating things. It involves a lot of math, which surprised me at first. I thought we would be learning only about chemicals and atoms and stuff, but it also includes a lot of equations and processes of solving problems to memorize. This class is definitely one of the more challenging classes you'll take this year. An important thing to remember is that Mr. Genest is available to help almost every day at lunch and that you never need to have correct answers to get homework credit. And also even the first month when you learn about metrics and dimensional analysis it is very important because you'll be using it for the rest of the year. Learn this early so that you don't scramble to figure out how to do this at the beginning of the third quarter. (PS: sometimes Mr. Genest puts the homework answers on his website)

Sincerely,

La zanahoria amarilla

Directions:

1. After reading all three letters, write a paragraph describing how this advice might apply to you. For full credit, your paragraph must mention five specific things that the letters above tell you.
2. Underline the words you write each time you start to describe some part of the letters above.
3. 5/5 pts if emailed to eagenest@madison.k12.wi.us by class time Friday. 4/5 pts if handwritten and turned in at the start of class Friday.