

## Vocabulary Focus: Flashcards Instructions

*When providing the best possible answer to the following questions please apply all learned scientific techniques and procedures, do not use abbreviations, use proper scientific terminology, show work for all mathematical calculations, use all significant figure and scientific notation rules, apply appropriate writing strategies, and note that at all times spelling counts. Your ability to meet these and all established classroom expectations, including labeling of BINs, providing heading information, and your ability to follow directions may be included in computation of grade.*

You will be expected to create a flashcard for each of the vocabulary terms discussed or assigned this year. You will need to use 3"x 5" index cards (3x5 index cards are available in the blue basket in the student workstation located in the back of the classroom). Please cut these in half (hamburger style) to increase the number of cards available to you and to take up less space.

- On the front of the card clearly write the vocabulary term. Make sure the term is spelled correctly!
- On the back of the card clearly, with correct spelling, write an explanation of the term. This definition should be a completely student generated definition. The best explanation of the term is the one that helps you learn and understand the term. Students are encouraged to use their notes from class to help them write the definitions. Alternate resources may also be helpful for understanding the words but most required concepts that need to be included in each definition for this class are covered during class and are included on the PowerPoint notes. This should be your first resource!  

Students are encouraged to include additional information, diagrams, or examples on the back of the flashcards if this information is useful in learning, understanding and remembering the vocabulary term.
- You should not memorize word for word any definition – doing so will not help you on a vocabulary assessment nor will it help you throughout the year as we build upon this information. You need to create a definition that is appropriate, applicable and right for you. Putting ideas into your own words will make them easier for you to understand and remember. You may include any additional notes you deem important on the back of the card if you wish, but this is not required. The flashcards must be in your own handwriting (no computers).
- There is a great deal of vocabulary in Biology. A year of Biology has more new vocabulary terms than a year of a foreign language. Unless you make an attempt to learn and use the terms, you will not do well in this course. Never simply list the words in your notes or outlines. Without a definition you haven't shown that you have mastered the term. Never (or only under extreme situations) use the glossary! The glossary is a crutch for the mind and should not be used unless you are trying to take a short cut and not really learn the term. The glossary uses no examples; the glossary makes no connections. No concept in Biology is simple enough to be completely explained (and therefore learned) in a single sentence! Using the index in our textbook will provide you with page numbers that will, in turn, provide you with examples and put the term into context (showing connections to other ideas). Using alternative resources on the internet or in other textbooks can do the same thing. This will allow you to create your own definition of the word custom made for your understanding.
- Using flashcards to study is a great way to learn all of the vocabulary terms introduced this year. It is recommended you begin by looking only at the "back" of the card with the definition and ask yourself what is the term to which the description is referring. I suggest writing the answer on a sheet of paper BEFORE checking your answer. Remember – SPELLING COUNTS. Once you have this task mastered, flip the cards over and study them from the "front" side. Practice explaining the term to a friend or family member while they hold the card. You can also practice writing out the explanation in preparation of the assessments.