

Vocabulary Focus: Flashcards

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 (Claim, Evidence, Reasoning), provide definitions of terms used in writing, 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.

Biology is a vocabulary intensive subject. Learning, understanding, and being able to correctly spell this new 'language' is essential to mastering the content of this class. Each unit will include a rather extensive list of vocabulary terms. Please do not become overwhelmed when viewing these lists. Considerable amounts of time will be spent discussing these terms in class. However, it is your responsibility to be able to study, learn and correctly spell these terms. Flashcards are a great way to conquer this task!

You will be expected to create a flashcard for each of the vocabulary terms discussed or assigned during class. (Flashcards are available in the blue basket 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.) The front of the card should have a clearly written and correctly spelled vocabulary term. The flip side of the card should have a completely student generated definition. The best explanation of the term is one that helps you learn and understand the term. Students are encouraged to use notes from class to write definitions. Alternate resources may also be helpful for understanding the words but the required concepts that need to be included in each definition for this class are covered during class and are included on the PowerPoint notes, therefore, your class notes should be your first resource! Please review your Vocabulary Focus: Developing Definitions handout (BIN 15) to make sure you are creating definitions properly. You 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.

Using flashcards to study is a great way to learn vocabulary terms. It is recommended you begin by looking at the “back” of the card (the definition) and ask yourself what to which term is the description 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 explanations in preparation for assessments.

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 (has all important parts), applicable (is related to the content we are studying) 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.

INSTRUCTIONS: Flashcard Homework: Flashcards should be updated on a nightly basis. This means that every night you should go through your notes from the day and create a flashcard for each new vocabulary term introduced that day. You should also try to review past terms as often as possible. A complete list of terms is available for each unit on the website.