

Goals and Expectations Essay

Scoring Rubric

This course is meant to be an exciting experience. Part of the purpose of the class is to assist you in discovering how you learn so that you are able to use the most effective study techniques. It presents curriculum established by the International Baccalaureate Organization in its Biology Vade Mecum.

Write a short essay describing your learning expectations for this class (the word essay here is used for convenience, not because you need to write a super formal paper). The first paragraph should describe what you know about how you learn, including study techniques that have been successful for you. What types of learning activities clarify concepts for you? The following paragraph should describe which unit of study you feel you know the most about before starting the course, what you know about that topic and where you learned the material. Then, describe which unit of study you feel you know the least about and what you hope to learn about that topic. Also include a description of which units' material you are most excited to learn about and explain why this topic holds particular interest for you. The final paragraph should describe why you chose to take this class, how you will define successful completion of this course, and what you think that you will need to do to achieve this.

The goals and expectations essay is worth a total of 20 points.

1. Description of learning techniques. (4 points)
 - You have described how you think you learn best.
 - You have described two or more study techniques that have previously brought you a feeling of academic success.
 - You also clearly describe a learning skill you hope to acquire this school year.
2. What knowledge of biology do you bring to this class? (8 points)
 - You have described which unit of study you feel the most about prior to the course.
 - You have outlined what you know about the topic you know most about.
 - You have discussed where you learned the material you feel you know most about.
 - You have described which unit of study you feel the least about prior to the course.
 - You have discussed what you hope to learn about the topic you know least about.
 - You have described which units' material you are most excited to learn about.
 - You have explained why this topic holds particular interest for you.
3. Defining success (4 points)
 - You have discussed why you elected to enroll in this course.
 - You have described how you would define successful completion of the class.
 - You have explained what you will do to achieve your definition of success.
 - You have addressed any concerns about the class.
4. Logistics (4 points)
 - Spelling and grammar are correct throughout the essay.
 - Essay was submitted on time and correctly