Advice for Introductory Biology Students

1. Lecture and textbook use
   - Always go to lecture (Monday 12:00-12:50 pm VLH, T + Th 9-10:20 am VLH).
   - Take thorough, handwritten notes including equations and diagrams.
   - Ask questions during or right after lecture or later by email or in person.
   - Before lecture, skim relevant textbook sections to preview the concepts.
   - After lecture, use the textbook to reinforce what you've learned in lecture.
   - Read extra references and review lecture PowerPoints on Moodle.
   - Read your email regularly for updates on course information.

2. Before coming to lab
   - Read the entire lab handout for that week.
   - Do the Pre-lab exercise on Moodle by 1:00 pm on your lab day for credit.
   - Outline the procedures in your lab notebook to make your lab go smoothly.
   - Make tables for data and observations as needed.
   - Calculate solution recipes as needed.

3. During lab
   - Annotate your lab handout with any changes in procedure noted on the board.
   - Ask questions of your lab instructor and professors. That's what they're there for.
   - Record all data and observations in your lab notebook.
   - Think about what the results mean.
   - Analyze data (depending on group or class data set availability).
   - Start writing your lab report and get feedback from your lab instructor.
   - Set a meeting time to finish the group report.
   - Get your lab partners' full names and cell phone numbers.
   - Participate and take notes during lab discussions.
   - Ask questions of the professors regarding lectures.

4. After lab
   - Work on writing your report while the lab is still fresh in your mind.
   - Reread the introduction to the lab and lab report instructions before writing.
   - Refer to the Lab Report Instructions (section S) while you are writing.
   - Use the Biology Science Center tutors Sun, M, T, W, Th 7-9 pm in B5/B7.
• Carey or Ned can look over your rough draft with you the day before it is due.
• Be thorough so that the report will be useful to you when studying for an exam.
• Upload the pdf of your lab report before it is due in case of technical difficulties.

5. In preparation for exams
• Outline your lecture notes to review facts and to see connections among concepts.
• Use the textbook to help clarify lecture topics.
• Check Moodle for sample test questions and other resources.
• Attend the review session when there is one.
• Ask questions of faculty and Carey.
• Organize a study group.
• Use the tutors: Biology Science Center in B5/B7 Sun, M, T, W, Th 7-9 pm
• Use the DoJo drop in tutoring center (http://web.reed.edu/academic_support).
• Use an Individual tutor (http://info.reed.edu/tutor/tutors.taf).

6. During exams
• Write your name legibly on every page as pages are separated for grading.
• Guess if you don't know an answer. No points are subtracted for wrong answers.
• If you are not sure of the answer to an essay question, start by defining the terms.
• Pace yourself to avoid running out of time. Blanks get no partial credit.
• You are allowed to take the exam anywhere, but don't waste time walking too far.

7. After getting your lab reports and exams back
• Read the examples of good lab reports (on bulletin board outside of B7).
• Review keys to exams (on bulletin board outside of B7).
• Ask for clarification, if needed, on your lab report and/or exam comments.

Condensed version
• Come to lecture and take notes.
• Come to lab prepared to participate and get the most out of it.
• Produce quality lab reports.
• Study for exams using a variety of resources.
• Follow up after lab reports and exams are returned to you.
• We’re here to help! See pages D-1 and D-2 for contact information.