

# The Science Journal

The Student Science Journal is a very important part of the student's assessment. By looking in the Journal, a teacher can assess the effort a student has put forth in class and at home as well as the level of understanding the student has for various concepts. It is also a tool used to teach the student organizational skills (valuable in learning as well as life in general). The quality of the journal has been found to be directly related to the grade most students earn in the course.

You will need a 3 ring binder. It is suggested that the 3 ring binder has the following:

- Be at least 1.5 inches wide
- Has a plastic cover that allows for inserts
- Seven tab section dividers (you will need to purchase these separately).

## Journal Set-up

### Section 1. Assessment Section

The sheets described in this section are to be placed in this section in the same order they appear below.

1. Class Syllabus. This describes the format of the course and the topics you will study
2. Elements of Success, which contains the classroom rules with grading policy.
3. Journal Assessments. Periodically your Journal will be assessed. This sheet will tell you what was not complete and indicate areas you need to improve in your Journal.
4. Grade Summary Sheets. The teacher will give you a grade summary sheet that shows your grade up to that date in the class. This will occur twice a marking period. However, you can see your most current grade summary online at <http://www.edzone.net/~bvigneau>. These are usually updated weekly.

### Section 2. Reading Section

This section begins with the Reading Section Content Page that you will fill in as you receive handouts for reading. Each entry should be dated and written in the order the handout was received. All reading handouts will be placed in this section *behind* the content page.

### Section 3. Notes Section

This section is for your notes that you take in class.. Each day, the new entries should be dated, (using the format 9/16/01), and highlighted. Realize that these notes should be considered the '*rough format*'. You will find that it is helpful to go over these notes nightly and rewrite to clarify parts. You will also find that you may not understand parts of your notes and at night would be a good time to formulate questions to ask the teacher and/or your lab partners the next day.

### Section 4. Homework and Quizzes Section

This section begins with the Homework and Quizzes Content Page. On this page there are places for you to list; the day the assignment was due and the name of the assignment. Behind this page your assignments should appear in the same order that they appear on the content page.

### **Section 5. Lab Section**

This section begins with the 'Lab Section Content Page'. The handouts you receive for labs should be listed and dated here. More importantly, the student will write clarifications and safety instructions for the lab procedures, and data (and drawings) collected from their labs here.

### **Section 6. Projects and Research**

This section begins with the 'Project Section Content Page'. All handouts should be listed on this page and dated in the order they were received. All information pertaining to current projects and research are to be written in this section. This includes all instructions as well as the data and information you and your group collect. All Handouts and Safety lecture topics will be listed and dated on this page in the order they were received. The first handout to follow the content page will be the Student Safety Contract. This Handout should be read by the student and their parents and then signed by both. The student may lose important lab time and Journal Assessment points if this contract is not signed. Other handouts pertaining to safety should be kept in this section with your labs, as well as safety discussion notes taken in class.

### **Section 8. Glossary Section**

This section begins with a Glossary Content Page. You use this page to fill in the terms in the order they are 'encountered' in class. Next, this section is made up of a series of 26 pages. Each page will represent a different letter of the alphabet. You will write the new terms that you list in your log on the appropriate page (in alphabetical order). Then at home, you are to compose an appropriate definition for that term. Your definition should be in *your own words* so that you understand it. If you're not sure, check with the teacher to make sure your definition is accurate. Don't fall behind on this, of those who do, some never catch up. Frequent vocabulary quizzes will be given!

I also keep a Journal for the class. Most everything above can be found in my journal. However, I do not write the notes in the note section, nor fill in definitions for the terms. If you are absent, be sure to check with a fellow student for possible notes you may have missed. You may copy their notes (if it is ok with them), but you may not 'make a copy of their notes'. All notes are to be in your handwriting. Upon returning to class following an absence, check your *absence folder* (located in the *absence box* by the door) for any handouts you may have missed.