



Welcome to AP Biology!

My name is Drew Ising, your teacher for the 2014-15 school year, and I am excited to meet and get to know each of you. I am so glad that you decided to challenge yourself by enrolling in this advanced placement course. Over the course of the year, we will learn not just about Biology, but about how to think, speak, read and write scientifically.

This course is designed to be as comprehensive as a college-level biology course, and, as such, more will be expected of you than in your introductory Biology courses. But don't worry; while the course is challenging, it is also rewarding. AP courses require you to take some initiative and personal responsibility over your learning, and our summer assignment is designed to model those skills using an "active journal" format.

The Assignment

All AP Biology students will be expected to read the same book: [The Universe Within](#), by Neil Shubin. This book takes a peek at the origins of the universe and how that has shaped our bodies and culture today.

FOR EACH CHAPTER...

>> You will need to create an outline of the science content in each chapter on the **LEFT side** of the page. These notes **must** fit on the left side of your page. If it won't fit on that side, it is not important enough to make note of. You will need to begin learning to evaluate information critically and to summarize it as briefly as possible. This will add years to your life, as you will experience *far* less stress.

>> On the **RIGHT side** of the page, you will be creating a **PRODUCT** that works on improving your *non-scientific* thinking skills. These assignments will include sketchnoting, poems, painting, drawing and other tasks emphasizing art, communication and literacy. A well-rounded, creative scientist is a good scientist open to innovative ideas.

FOR SPECIFIC CHAPTERS...

We will hold "tweet-ups" (think meet-up + hashtag – actual human contact). If any of you do not use Twitter, you should join. It can be an amazing resource if used properly. If your parents won't allow this, please contact me so I can help you stay in the conversation. These will take place on Wednesday nights from 7:00-7:30pm using **#ONAPBio**. We will discuss chapters 4 & 5 at the end of June (6/25) and chapters 8 & 9 at the end of July (7/30).

FOR THE ENTIRE BOOK...

We will have a discussion on the **first full day** of class (8/14?) centering on science communication, life's place in the universe and biochemistry. You will be expected to be able to participate in this discussion having read the entire book.

[The Universe Within](#) is available at your local library, or you can purchase the book (digital or paperback) from area stores or online. If anyone is having issues buying or checking out the book, please contact me before July 4th, 2014.

Please send me an email with your contact information **NO LATER THAN JUNE 2nd**. I want to compile an email group to share information, links and upcoming deadlines/opportunities with you over the course of the summer. Additionally, if you have any questions about AP Biology or your summer assignment, do not hesitate to contact me.

Have a **great** summer, and I will speak with you soon.