

Biology Lab-Classroom Safety

Safety Rules for Class, Lab, and Field Studies

A. General Guidelines

1. Follow all written and verbal instructions carefully.
2. Do not perform any unauthorized activity or experiments.
3. Never handle equipment or materials without permission.
4. All drinks, food, candy, or gum are to be left outside the lab.
5. Always work in the lab with others, never alone.
6. Know what to do in case of accidents (spills, breaks, fire, injury, etc.)
7. Immediately report all accidents to the teacher.
8. Know where safety equipment is stored and how to use them (first aid kit, fire extinguisher, fire blanket, eye wash, shower, etc.)
9. Keep hands away from face, mouth, and eyes during experiments.
Wash them immediately after the lab is over.
10. Proper behavior is expected at all times during any class period. Misbehavior, horseplay, and pranks are particularly dangerous during lab experiments and will not be tolerated. All students will behave in a manner that's becoming of a safety conscious person who is concerned for the well being of others and himself/herself.
11. All materials that are to be disposed of will be done in strict accordance to the teacher's instructions. Never assume anything may be put in the sink.
12. Lab stations are to be kept tidy during experiments and cleaned afterwards.

B. Dress Code

1. When directed, goggles, gloves, aprons, etc. must be worn for the duration of the experiment. Avoid wearing contact lenses during experiments if possible.
2. Long hair must be securely fixed so as to not get in the way of sight, flame, or other materials.
3. Wear closed-toed shoes, remove hand jewelry, and no loose clothing during experiments.

C. Accidents and Injuries

1. Report all accidents and injuries to the teacher immediately.
2. If anything gets in your eyes (gas, chemical, object, etc.), proceed to the eyewash station immediately and flush for 15 minutes. If contacts are worn, do not attempt to remove. They will come out on their own during the flushing.
3. If chemicals get on your skin, wash immediately with water and soap. Larger area exposures require use of the shower. Remove affected clothing immediately.
4. Broken glassware should be reported immediately. DO NOT attempt to clean up the broken glass. The teacher will handle this.
5. In the event of a fire, report immediately and get out of the room. If YOU are on fire, drop and roll. If another person is on fire, grab the fire blanket and smother. If necessary, the fire extinguisher is to be used **by the teacher**. Remember, the greatest danger from a fire in a lab isn't getting burned, it's breathing in toxic fumes. LEAVE, then get help.

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D. Chemicals

1. All chemicals are to be considered dangerous. Read all labels.
2. Never touch, taste, or smell any chemical or other substances without specific permission from the teacher.
3. Unused chemicals **are not** to be returned to the original container without permission.
4. Use only chemicals that are necessary for the procedure. Use only the amount needed. Keep lids closed.
5. When diluting an acid, ALWAYS add a small amount of acid to water, NEVER add water to acid.
6. Use extreme caution when transporting chemicals from one point to another.
7. Report chemical spills immediately to the teacher. DO NOT attempt to clean up yourself.
8. All students will be familiar with MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheets), where they are located, and the type of information that can be found on them.

E. Glassware and Equipment

1. Broken glassware should be reported immediately. DO NOT attempt to clean up the broken glass. The teacher will handle this.
2. Report any broken, chipped, or cracked glassware immediately.
3. Never eat or drink from laboratory glassware.
4. Use mitts or other instruments when handling any heated glassware. Hot glass looks the same as cool glass. Check first before grabbing.
5. Use electrical equipment according to its purpose and design. Plugs and cords are to be in good condition.
6. Do not operate equipment unless you have been trained in its use and you have specific permission.
7. Report any malfunctioning equipment immediately.

F. Live Organisms

1. No experiments that cause pain, discomfort, or harm to an animal should be done in the classroom or at home.
2. Any handling of organisms will be done only after proper instruction from the teacher and specific permission is given.
3. No collection of organisms for observation or experiment from the wild will be allowed. Certain types of collection may be assigned, but only with specific instructions and permission from the teacher.
4. Any procedure that may involve potentially infectious agents will be accompanied by specific sanitary instructions. These are to be followed closely.
5. Some plants/ plant parts can be harmful. Do not eat. Do not get sap, juices, etc. from any plant part on your skin.
6. Hands are to be washed immediately after handling any animal or plant.

G. Field Studies

1. Dress appropriately for the weather and terrain. Long pants and sleeves, and sturdy shoes are standard. Sunglasses, sunscreen, gloves, raingear, insect repellent, and other accessories may be necessary.
2. Stay with the group or a partner. Do not be alone.
3. Do not approach animals, dead or alive. Do not approach known animals' homes.
4. Beware of poisonous plants. Do not touch. Do not pick flowers.
5. Beware of negative impacts your presence may make on the habitats of other organisms. Stay on the path unless directed otherwise. Do not litter. Do not collect specimens of anything without direct permission from the teacher.
6. Report any accidents/injuries to the teacher immediately.
7. Remain on task on any trip. Know your purpose for being there and what needs to be accomplished.
8. All known allergies or other physically limiting factors that may be challenged during a field trip are to be made known to the teacher prior to the trip.

Biology Lab-Classroom Safety Contract

I, _____ am fully aware that a laboratory environment is a safe place when others and I exhibit conduct that exemplifies proper responsibility and attitude toward safety.

I agree to assume responsibility for my safety and my classmates' safety. I understand that my actions not only affect me, but others around me. **I agree** to read, understand, and follow the safety rules in Mr. Blankenship's handout, along with information in my text and information gathered in the classroom. **I agree** to follow the teacher's instructions at all times. **I agree** to abide by the following items:

1. I will handle all laboratory materials and equipment as prescribed.
2. I will familiarize myself with any techniques for any activity before I proceed with the activity.
3. I will learn the proper use and location of all safety equipment in the classroom/lab.
4. I will report immediately all accidents/injuries to the teacher.
5. I will follow prescribed procedures should a fire break out in the laboratory.
6. I will assist in cleanup after each laboratory activity. I will dispose of chemicals only as the teacher directs. I will return all equipment and materials to their proper places.
7. I understand that should any equipment be broken due to misuse or carelessness on my part, I will be responsible for my part of the replacement cost.
8. I understand that any violation of this contract may result in dismissal from the laboratory, with other disciplinary measures as deemed appropriate.

STUDENT:

- ❖ I have read and understand the preceding rules of Mr. Blankenship's biology class, along with the handout I have received entitled: "Biology Lab-Classroom Safety: Safety Rules for Class, Lab and Field Studies."
- ❖ I understand and agree that I must abide by them.

Student's name (printed)

Date

Student's name (signed)

Block #

PARENT:

- ❖ I have read and understand the preceding rules of Mr. Blankenship's biology class, along with the handout my child has received entitled: "Biology Lab-Classroom Safety: Safety Rules for Class, Lab and Field Studies."
- ❖ I have discussed them with my child and understand that he/she must obey them.

Parent's name (printed)

Date

Parent's name (signed)

E-mail address

Daytime phone number