

Experience is a hard teacher because she gives the test first, the lesson afterwards.

~Vernon Saunders Law

AP Biology Summer Plant Assignment

Meet your new responsibilities...

Coleus:



Begonia:



Objective 1: To get you to experience that plants are living, growing, responsive creatures that need care in the lab

Objective 2: To get you using research tools available to you and give you practice with documenting steps of your experiments as well as organizing your data.

Your Goal:

To nurture your plants successfully throughout the summer. Get them to grow!

- **Coleus:** A prize for the biggest, bushiest coleus – you **DON'T** want this plant to flower
- **Begonia:** A prize for the biggest, bushiest, blooming begonia – you **DO** want this plant to bloom. The more flowers the higher your chance of earning a prize!

FAQ's:

Q: How do I take care of a coleus or Begonia?

A: Look it up! Be sure to record your sources. Use Citation Machine to put your resources in APA format (simply type "citation machine" into Google).

Q: How do I stop my Coleus plant from Blooming?

A: Look it up!

Q: Do these plants like sun or shade?

A: Can you guess...Look it up!

Q: Am I allowed to feed my plants?

A: Yes! You may do anything to help the plants become big, bushy and in the begonia case – bloom.

Q: What kind of data should I record?

A: You are the scientist so you decide! What do you think will help you determine if your efforts are working? If you are not sure how to make good data tables – look it up! Organized data is easier to understand and use for analysis. Plan your data collection before you begin!

Data Collection:

- Set up and use your lab notebook to **record data** about your plant in properly formatted data tables
- Include all research sources (**APA format**).
- Data tables, pictures, and details about what you did to your plants and **WHEN** will all be helpful in presenting your information to your classmates.

The process skills are basic to what learning is all about. They lead us to ask pertinent questions. They help us to think critically. They are the intellectual raw materials for problem solving.

~Ken Mechling and Donna Oliver

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What will be due the first day of school and graded in your Lab Notebook?

- Data tables (titles etc. all clearly labeled)
- Graphs of plant growth (multiple if you killed your plants and got new ones)
- Pictures of your plants as they grow
- Growing Notes – what did you do? When did you do it? Where were plants placed etc
- Citations for research (APA format)

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