

Teacher Study Group Final Report

May 21, 2003

Project Title: Laboratory Activities For The Living Environment: Investing And Planning For Success

Thanks for the support. Our goals were lofty and worthwhile. We have been able to accomplish much with the support of the Teacher Center. We spent most of our mutual meeting time sharing ideas, developing plans, trying things on a small scale, and then revising. Have the time set aside to talk was invaluable. Much of our work extended beyond our meeting time to hours spent working at home in the evenings.

Writing was done on various home computers and graphics were added by the old cut and paste method. We developed and tried a separate grading rubric, but we found that it was not effective. We went back to the table to talk. Each lab is long, assesses several standards and process skills; and must be graded for each student. We have 350 + students in our biology program. We looked “√” box format that is used to grade the LE Exam. We felt that this would work for us if we identified each skill next to the student response area on the lab. We have a cut paste versions ready to use and we are working on scanned versions.

What we have done:

1. We invested time in planning and implementation as a department.
2. Purchased supplies and gathered materials necessary for the 4 labs.
 - a. Supplies and materials are in labeled storage boxes for each lab. They have been packaged smaller team kits.
 - b. There are separate home teaching kits.
3. Completed each lab as a department.
4. Each teacher has completed at least two of the required labs with their classes and two teachers have completed three of the labs to date with plans to complete the forth lab as their final lab of the year.
5. Shared successes and modifications that we made to particular labs as we worked through a lab with our classes.
6. Developed two models for doing the labs.
7. Diffusion through a Membrane Lab has been scanned and is on disc. Investment of 5 plus hours for several people.
8. Lab Grading Rubric: Modified each lab to include an easy to use “√” grading system. At present will use cut paste versions, but we have one lab scanned into the computer and will modify it to include the Labeled “√” boxes.

9. Created a Question Bank: assessment questions were written for each lab. This was done on separate computers and we did not have access to scanners. The graphics have not been included in the files at this time, but will be added.
10. Gathered readings to support the labs.
11. Formulated a plan for lab make ups.
12. Planned how will use lab feedback to prepare of the Part D assessment.

What we will continue to do:

1. Share results of labs with department
2. Once we have used the grading system we will discuss making modifications.
3. Continue to work to scan in the labs to add the grading boxes.
4. Scan and add graphics to question bank.
5. Look for and add reading for labs
6. Write additional lab assessment questions.