Reading Journal for Chem 821

Textbook: Zumdah/ Zumdhal/ DeCosste World of Chemistry. Houghton Mifflin Company 2007.

Two of the most important learning skills you will develop are to read a textbook effectively and take meaningful notes. Your textbook is designed specifically to help you develop these skills. Your job is to establish good reading & note taking habits and practice these habits throughout the year. A reading journal is a chronology of your reading notes, class notes, and exercises. If you consistently do a good job with your reading journal, you will gain a deeper understanding of the material and be able to prepare for tests better and earn better grades.

Good reading habits include previewing each lesson by reading all the headings and looking at all the pictures & captions. As you read the lesson, write notes on the important concepts & vocabulary and any questions that you have. Write in complete sentences. This will help you formulate a complete thought and better prepare yourself for responding to test questions. Read everything on the page, not just what is in the main text. Sometimes the most helpful and the most interesting things are written on the sides or are in the pictures! When the material is presented in class highlight the concepts that are emphasized in class and be sure that your questions have been answered.

When you study for a test or quiz, reread your reading journal. You may want to reread lessons from your textbook. When your graded tests & quizzes are returned to you, check what items you missed and add or edit your reading notes so that you can correctly answer all of the test & quiz questions.

**How to Organize Your Reading Journal**

Each time you begin a new reading journal, label the top of the page with:

Chapter and section and title of section

For example Ch 2 Section 2.2 Properties of Matter

The pages on the **left side are for in-class notes**. All in-class notes should be done in **black ink**. In-class notes include:

* Notes from the lesson
* Check in notes from the conclusion of class

The corresponding pages on the **right side are for your textbook reading notes**. When you look at your reading journal the left and right pages should be for the **same** section.

Textbook notes should be done in **blue ink**. Textbook reading notes include:

* For each sections subsection, for example:  
  2.2 A. Physical and Chemical Properties  
  Include 3-5 bullet points of the important .
* At least 1 question you have for the section – What idea needs clarification? What are you curious about?
* Favorite Picture – draw & write a 1 sentence description
* At least 1 example from an example box
* Notes from any of the pull out boxes
* Vocabulary
* Big Idea – write 1-2 sentences that answer the essential question of the lesson