

CHEMISTRY HOMEWORK 2013–2014

Homework is practice. It is also an opportunity to learn more. When I assign a reading assignment, it is not meant to be a “free” night. I expect you to do the reading. Some things we will go over but some things we will not. During the next class you will have an opportunity to ask questions about the reading. This, of course, assumes that you have read the assignment! And sometimes there will be reading along with other work – all parts are important!

Homework is mandatory and I have assigned a definite point value to the homework that is handed in. If it seems that a student has not done her reading, this will likely impact her results on tests but I may also consider this in assigning a participation grade.

Although I assign certain questions there are often specific questions within an assignment that I consider most important. In grading, these are often the ones I mainly focus on. As I said in the syllabus - homework is practice. Just putting down answers that are given in the book or copying from someone else or waiting to write something until you come to class does you no good. You need to do the work for yourself! You need to know what you do not understand. You will be lost on quizzes or tests (or exams) if you have not done your work. I also do not give full credit for an assignment if no attempt is shown for problems (ie., just answers).

Moreover, I am being careful with recording homework assignments. Included in this is a "statute of limitations" for late homework. At the moment that is five days from the day the assignment was originally due. This means SCHOOL DAYS and not class periods.

I am not giving full credit for a late assignment. For each school day (not class period) an assignment is late, the grade will drop. The exception to this is if you get your assignment in before homeroom (ie., before 7:55) on the next school DAY you will still get full credit. (You can put the assignment in my mailbox or on my desk.)

If you are sick, the clock starts the class period you get back. (That is, I will give you extra time to get a missed assignment in without penalty if you have an excused absence.) You should have completed your homework to have handed it in on the day you missed anyway, so it just amounts to getting it to me. I will also be putting a zero ("0") on PowerSchool for a homework grade if any assignment is not handed in when due. Historically, I have entered the 0's even before I have looked at the homeworks themselves.

If you are sick/absent this will show up as a "0" (hopefully along with a comment about you being absent) until the assignment is handed in. Maybe this will serve as a reminder to you of this

missing work. Of course, if you just do not hand an assignment in, this will also show as a "0", and the clock and the grade countdown will have started.

Homework assignments are posted on my website, www.thinkhemistry.com, in addition to being given in class. You have little excuse for not knowing any assignment whether or not you are in class.

If a student has an extended absence she will be given time to make up missed homework but she needs to meet with me to work out the details of any extended time. Of course, the "first" assignment should have already been done and be ready to be handed in upon her return to class.