



# How to thrive in Science in Mrs. Angie's class

A major concern of students in my class is the science fair (Learn more about the [science fair](#)). While the science fair is important, it's certainly not all there is to science in my class. It also includes participation, homework, and tests!!!

First of all, **participation** in the science experiments is VITAL!!! The experiments will be related to the materials being covered in the science book, but will often branch off into other ideas. For example, when studying rocks and the properties of rocks, we may do experiments that would relate to *fossils*. The things we talk about in our fossil discussions would be important things to know...in other words, just be sure you're paying attention, or you may miss something important. Experiments will include experiments about light, chemistry, force, motion, mass, and laws of physics.

The **homework** will be much like the homework of history - here's how to succeed:

1. Questions which are open-ended are questions that can be answered more than one way. (For example: "Explain how...?" or "Describe why...?" or "Why do you think...?") ALL open-ended questions must be answered in clear, useful, and complete sentences. A sentence like "The answer is that I think he was smart." is a bad sentence. A better sentence would be "It seems like Benjamin Franklin experimented with electricity because he was a curious man and enjoyed learning." IF, however, the sentence is not open-ended (if it has only a one-word answer or a definition that is taken directly out of the book), simply answer the question without re-stating the question.

2. ALL answers MUST include the page number where the answer was found. It may seem like a lot of work, but if you're looking up the answer, you're already on the page anyway. You might as well just write the extra 2 or 3 numbers at the end of your answer.
3. Write in neat, 5th/6th grade penmanship. Cursive is not required, but all writing must be neat and legible. If I can't read it, I can't grade it.
4. ORGANIZE, ORGANIZE, ORGANIZE. Sometimes charts will need to be copied onto your paper or pictures will need to be drawn. Be sure you organize your paper neatly - don't try to fit too much onto one page. This includes putting the heading of the sections in clear, obvious places ("Checkpoint 2.2", then later down the page "Checkpoint 2.3").
5. Don't forget the heading! Four lines: Name, Subject, Assignment, Date

The **tests** will be a mix of short answer, multiple choice, and essay questions. One will be given at the end of each chapter, so test dates will depend on how quickly we move through the material. *But* you can take a good guess about when the tests will be by how far into a chapter we are and how long you think it will take to get to the end. Test will usually be given pretty quickly after the chapter ends, which is why I always recommend that students start preparing for tests as we cover the material. (See my [test taking skills](#) section)