

PULLING IT ALL TOGETHER

The information in this book is not going to help you get better grades if you don't apply it when writing your term papers, examination essays, theses, practical reports and so on. In this chapter I will offer some suggestions on how to go about using the information.

The suggestions in this book probably fall into one of three categories:

1. Stuff you disagree with (that's fine, you don't have to agree with everything I say) or that is not appropriate to the academic discipline you are studying.
2. Stuff you already do as a matter of course.
3. The things you don't currently do regularly but think are a good idea.

If you try to apply all the good ideas at once in your next piece of coursework you will probably get overwhelmed and apply them badly or not at all. Then you will get angry with the book, and demoralised with yourself and with the whole process of trying to get better grades.

So, try and apply the suggestions in this book bit by bit. Before the next term paper, select five to seven of the suggestions that you liked and that you are not currently doing. Try and select one or two from each section rather than just selecting all of the suggestions from one section.

Try and incorporate them as you write this next review paper. When you have finished go back to your list and see if you have incorporated the suggestions. If you have, great. If not, go back and edit your paper to incorporate them.

Under the time pressure and other stress of a written exam, it may not be the best time to try and change the habits of a lifetime. Instead, pick three techniques you are going to try to use in the exam beforehand and try to incorporate these into your answers.

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You have probably heard from other students that biochemistry is difficult. This book is different to all the big biochemistry textbooks you have seen.

It has groups of short questions and short answers arranged in 50 short chapters. As you work through the questions in each chapter you will be taken step by step through the important biochemical pathways and chemical structures that you need to know to help you understand biochemistry and pass your exams!