

Conversion to Higher Technology Classroom Presentation in Biochemistry

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The purpose of this project was to hire students to convert several notebooks of transparency notes to Powerpoint presentations. The slides required considerable drawing of chemical structures and diagrams of proteins and molecular interactions, and went far beyond just typing words on a slide. Several students were involved in the project to various extents. The students were eager to do this project as a way to review for various standardized exams or for general knowledge in biochemistry. They did a fine job, and I have been able to update and “tweak” their slides as I incorporate them into my classes.

Student response has been very positive. Occasionally when I run out of prepared Powerpoint slides and revert to my original transparencies, I get complaints, particularly about the legibility. Students also have come to depend on being able to download the Powerpoint slides, and they make copious annotations in class. Since the students have the slides to study from, their notes are accurate and complete, and make a better study tool for preparing for exams.

With the PowerPoint base of slides, I have been more readily able to update the slides and add images from the internet (properly referenced, of course). Packaged with the textbook are high quality images and some animations that serve as an effective teaching tool.

Although all the slides have not yet been completed, most of them are done and in use in my classes. I am very much appreciative of the students who helped on this project. Without their work, it frankly would have been too much of a time commitment for me to do, and I would still be working off transparencies.

The funding of this curriculum development grant made a great difference to me and the biochemistry students.