

Study Skills for Chemistry

Succeeding in Your Chemistry Class

Your success in this course will depend on your ability to apply some basic study skills to learning the material. Studying chemistry can be difficult, but you can make it easier using simple strategies for dealing with the concepts and problems. Becoming skilled in using these strategies will be your keys to success in this and many other courses.

► Reading the Text

- **Read the assigned material before class** so that the class lecture makes sense. Use a dictionary to help you build and interpret vocabulary. Remember that, while reading, one of your tasks is to figure out what information is important.

Working together with others using Paired Reading and Discussion strategies can help you decide what is important and clarify the material. (For more discussion, see Other Reading Strategies on page 876.)

- **Select a quiet setting** away from distractions so that you can concentrate on what you are reading.
- **Have a pencil and paper nearby to jot down notes and questions** you may have. Be sure to get these questions answered in class. Power Notes (see page 871) can help you organize the notes you take and prepare you for class.
- **Use the Objectives in the beginning of each section as a list of what you need to know from the section.** Teachers generally make their tests based on the text objectives or their own objectives. Using the objectives to focus your reading can make your learning more efficient.

Using the K/W/L strategy (see page 874) can help you relate new material to what you already know and what you need to learn.

► Taking Notes in Class

- **Be prepared to take notes during class.** Have your materials organized in a notebook. Separate sheets of paper can be easily lost.
- **Don't write down everything your teacher says.** Try to tell which parts of the lecture are important and which are not. Reading the text before class will help in this. You will not be able to write down everything, so you must try to write down only the important things.
- **Recopying notes later is a waste of time** and does not help you learn material for a test. Do

