

LENScience Senior Biology Seminar Series Student Update Number 7 – 18th June, 2010

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Seminar 4: What's going on?

First of all a big congratulations to the students from Logan Park High School and Otago Girls' High School for their excellent participation in the video conference in the seminar last week. It was great to see you all there and your questions were well thought out.

This week and next week is your opportunity to discuss the challenge questions from Seminar 4 and have a go at answering them.

It seems like you are all busy with school assessments as we haven't had much activity on the wiki since the seminar last week. Hopefully this will pick up over the next few weeks

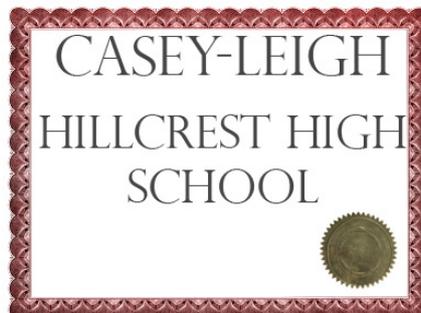


Best question from Seminar 4

The questions from last week's seminar were really good and it was wonderful to see new names and new schools contributing their questions both in the live seminar chat and on the wiki. All the questions have now been answered. If you haven't checked them out you can do so on the [Seminar 4 Question Page](#).

Crid and Hamish were impressed by all the questions you asked of them so well done! Particular mention needs to go to Amber from Wellington Girls' College, Gemma from Waiuku College, Theodore from Sacred Heart, Jenny from Unlimited Paenga Tawhiti, Ajay from Mt Roskill Grammar School, Tom from Nelson College and Cherry from Hillcrest High School for your very thoughtful questions.

The prize for the best question in Seminar 4 goes to.....



Casey-Leigh's questions came through after the seminar and showed that she was thinking carefully and critically about what Crid had said.

Acknowledging Sources of Information

It's wonderful to see so many of you reading beyond the seminar to help you with your answers to the challenge questions. Keep on doing this but there are some things you need to be thinking about.

With many of our questions (and also when you do research) we don't expect you to have all the information to you need inside your head or to have got it only from the seminar. We do expect you to do some research to help you with your answer. When you do that though it is important that you acknowledge where you got the ideas that helped you with your answer. A piece of writing without any references implies that all the ideas, phrases, structure etc are your own. If you've used books or websites or something else like other people to help you and haven't acknowledged them then that is plagiarism. This is something you have to be very careful about if you are doing AS90714 and also when you go to university.

For a good tutorial about plagiarism see: <http://www.cte.usf.edu/plagiarism/plag.html>

To avoid plagiarism you always need to reference your sources. With your answers to the Challenge Questions on the wiki we'd also like you to reference your sources. This doesn't have to be formal citations, but a list of websites that you've consulted would be good. If you're doing research at school ask your teacher how they would like the referencing done.

The other thing to think about is not relying on just one website to help you. In Scholarship you are expected to integrate ideas. Integrating ideas means identifying the main or important ideas from more than one source and combining them together into your answer. What integrating isn't is using only one source and copying whole sentences word for word. The other reason why it's a good idea to use more than one website is to check the accuracy and veracity of the information that you've found.

Finally be careful with Wikipedia. It is a quick and easy place to start looking for information but always check what you find as it does have its limitations. If you're interested in learning more about this, Wikipedia has an article about itself: [Reliability of Wikipedia](#). This [Student Wikipedia Use Policy](#) from the Department of English at the University of California is also worth looking at.

Meet another of our student ambassadors

You met Campbell during the Introductory Seminar back at the start of the year, but here is a little bit more information about him.



Hi, I'm Campbell Heron and I went to Horowhenua College last year. I was part of a group of around 8 people who were attending the seminars with the hopes of getting a biology scholarship and a better understanding of biology. I won the top scholar award in biology in 2009 (much to my surprise!). I am now studying Health Sciences at the University of Otago. When you're on the seminar chat feel free to ask me questions and I will try to help.

Next Seminar

The next seminar is on Thursday 29th July - Week 2, Term 3

Topic: Biological Clocks

Presenter: Dr Guy Warman, Michal Denny

In this seminar you will find out why it is so hard to get up on Monday mornings, why your parents nag you about your sleeping in and why you wonder what time it is when you wake up from a general anaesthetic.



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