

Fundamentals of Organic Chemistry Summer Assignment

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Organic chemistry is a highly creative science in which chemists create new molecules and explore the properties of existing compounds. It is the most popular field of study for ACS chemists and Ph.D. chemists.

Organic compounds are all around us. They are central to the economic growth of the United States in the rubber, plastics, fuel, pharmaceutical, cosmetics, detergent, coatings, dyestuff, and agrichemical industries, to name a few. The very foundations of biochemistry, biotechnology, and medicine are built on organic compounds and their role in life processes. Many modern, high-tech materials are at least partially composed of organic compounds .

Organic chemists spend much of their time creating new compounds and developing better ways of synthesizing previously known compounds.

-The American Chemical Society

Your summer assignment is to read at least one book which will help introduce you to the important field of Organic Chemistry and generate interest in the subject. Below is the list of books you from which you may choose. During the first week of school, you'll take a 10-question multiple choice quiz to show that you have in fact read the book. This will count as your first quiz grade of the year. The quiz questions will not be about picky details or obscure characters, but will be main points from the book, so don't worry about memorizing things or taking notes. If you've read the book, you should easily be able to answer the questions. Just enjoy the stories...Organic Chemistry can be fascinating! Since they're all so good, and you may want to read more than one, you will have the option to take quizzes on up to two books. If you do choose to take two quizzes, only the highest grade will count.

Book List (read at least one of the following):

Title	Author	Field(s)
Mauve – How One Man Invented a Color that Changed the World	Simon Garfield	Dyes, Fashion
Plastic – A Toxic Love Story	Susan Freinkel	Plastics, Environmentalism
The Billion-Dollar Molecule – The Quest for the Perfect Drug	Barry Werth	Biochemistry Research, Pharmacology, Business
The Poisoner's Handbook – Murder and the Birth of Forensic Medicine in Jazz Age New York	Deborah Blum	Forensics, Toxicology