

# General College Biology Laboratory Manual

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drawing from the author's own work as a lab developer coordinator and instructor this one of a kind text for college biology teachers uses the inquiry method in presenting 40 different lab exercises that make complicated biology subjects accessible to major and nonmajors alike the volume offers a review of various aspects of inquiry including teaching techniques and covers 16 biology topics including dna isolation and analysis properties of enzymes and metabolism and oxygen consumption student and teacher pages are provided for each of the 16 topics

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the subjects of this study were 96 college students enrolled in an introductory college biology lecture and laboratory class at a land grant 1 midwestern university the science laboratory environment inventory slei was used to determine their perceptions of the high school and college biology laboratory environments questions taken from the test of critical thinking in biology tcb were used to determine differences in critical thinking between students who received only lecture instruction and those who received lecture plus laboratory instruction no significant difference in perceptions of the high school biology laboratory environment were found between the students who received lecture only and those who received lecture plus laboratory instruction significant differences were found between perceptions of the high school and college biology laboratory environments by students who had experienced both levels of instruction the college biology laboratory environment was perceived to be lower in integration extent to which theoretical non laboratory lecture classes are related to practical laboratory classes and higher in material environment extent to which laboratory equipment and materials are adequate than the high school biology laboratory environment there was no significant difference on the tests of critical thinking between the students who received lecture only and those who received lecture plus laboratory instruction students who received lecture plus laboratory instruction scored significantly higher on the post test of critical thinking than students who received the lecture only instruction there was no significant correlation between pre and post tests of critical thinking and five scales of the slei measuring perceptions of the high school or college biology laboratory environments further studies need to be conducted to determine the validity of the tcb as a measure of critical thinking this study used only 15 of the 52 items from the original test and reliability values were too low to justify findings conditions in the college biology laboratory should be studied to determine what if anything might be done to raise students perceptions of integration research might be repeated with an increased number of items on the tcb and actual and preferred forms of the slei to determine differences in perception between students attending large universities and small colleges

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