



Biotechnology Teaching Online: Connecting Teachers!

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Each summer, the BTC Institute offers courses for teachers who want to bring biotechnology concepts and labs to their classrooms. For over 10 years (and one virtual summer), teachers have gathered to learn about topics such as gel electrophoresis, polymerase chain reaction, transformations, and protein purification. They have come from all over Wisconsin and other states in the Midwest, and from as far away as Colorado, Arizona, California, Canada and Nigeria.

They have a wide range of backgrounds - middle school through community colleges, Science teachers and Ag teachers. They have a wide range of resources - some with fully stocked labs and others who are lucky to have one micropipette. They work with a wide range of students - inner city and rural, advanced learners and ones with special needs, military schools and prisons. Each course has been an amazing experience and we have all learned so much.

These opportunities to share content and lab techniques are very valuable. That noted, the most rewarding and thought-provoking aspect of the class has been when we have had the time to learn from each other. Ideas from these amazing teachers have inspired me to rewrite curriculum, develop new labs, and critically analyze assignments. Unfortunately, these experiences --- the best form of professional development -- are few and far between.

This leads me to a wonderful opportunity on April 15th. It's being billed as "[Peter's Blog Goes Live,](#)" which may sound like the evening is about me. The reality is that it is about us -- teachers who cover biotechnology. The hope is to discuss the issues that are the most relevant to teaching biotechnology in the current environment:

- How do *you* do lab work while still online?
- What topics do *you* feel are most relevant to teaching biotechnology?
- What resources do *you* feel are most helpful to teaching biotechnology?

- What topics do *you* find fascinating, but difficult to bring back to your biotechnology classroom?

The format of the evening is flexible and I promise that all will have the opportunity to share and to learn from each other. Who knows? We may even find that the discussion leads to more opportunities to get together and talk about biotechnology education.

The discussion will be rich - it always is when we get together, share, and learn from each other. I hope you decide to join us!