

New Reader,

WELCOME to the 2003 AP Chemistry Reading. In approximately 7 days we will all be meeting in sunny, Clemson to grade approximately 65,000 (ETS estimates) AP Chemistry examinations. This will take us 7 days of hard work. I am writing you as a New Reader (Acorn) to let you know I look forward to meeting you, working with you and to provide you with some additional information you will find useful. As a new Reader I m sure you have many questions about what is going to happen.

This year approximately 180 high school and college faculty will get together to grade. To help prepare you for the Reading I recommend you review the materials you have already received from ETS. You have a map of Clemson. The important places on that map are the Calhoun Courts Apartments (sleep and socialize), the Hendrix Student Center (opening session), Daniel Hall (grade), Schlitter Food Court (eat) and Calhoun Courts (check-in). If you arrive in time to walk around campus these are good places to visit.

As you are aware, transportation has been arranged for you to get from Greenville-Spartenburg Airport (if you are flying) to Clemson. Check-in will be at Calhoun Courts. If your room is far from the Check-in building, or you are tired do not worry about asking one of the students to help carry your luggage. You do not have to carry your luggage to your housing. You have your own room and you will have a roommate in your apartment/suite. Your roommate should be the same gender! You will share a bath. Towels supplied by Clemson are simple, as is the soap.

At check-in you will receiver several items. First there is the Information Guide. This document is VERY important. It has information about time and location for the AP Chemistry Opening Session on Tuesday, June 3rd. It also has lots of other information about the Reading. When you get yours, please look it over. If you have questions do not be concerned about asking. WEAR your name tag so we know who you are! Along with the Information Guide you will also receive a list of the other AP Chemistry Readers at the Reading. Finally, you will receive a welcome message from your Table Leader and a copy of the rubric of the question you have been assigned. Please review the rubric. You do not have to memorize the rubric, that will happen soon enough. Just check it over so you have an idea of the point assignment.

If you arrive at a reasonable hour (before 9:00 pm) on Tuesday visit the Calhoun Courts Commons area on the floor below the Check-in floor to meet some of the other Readers. There will be food and refreshment and stimulating conversation. Perhaps you will even meet your TL or other Readers on your question.

Get some sleep! We begin working early Tuesday morning. One thing about the schedule included in the Information Guide; we always start when the schedule says we start, so be early to everything! On the first day everyone is trying to locate breakfast, get that critical cup of coffee and something to eat. Allow yourself plenty of time so you can make the introductory session.

Immediately following the Opening Session (usually in Hendrix Student Center, but check your Information Guide) we move to Daniel Hall to begin training on the rubric. The training consists of your group working with your Table Leader to learn how to grade the question you are assigned. This usually takes several hours. Training involves practice applying the rubric to sample papers your Table Leader has organized. After reviewing the rubric you will practice grading sample papers. You will discuss in great detail each grade you assign. Everyone will share the grade they give a particular paper and discuss the score to help you learn how to apply the rubric. You are encouraged to ask questions during the training session.

Grading an AP Exam is different than grading your own student s exams. The number of points that we assign a question and how they are assigned is unique to AP Chemistry. You are encouraged to offer your thoughts on the rubric. Questions are important to understand how to apply the rubric. So do not be concerned about asking. And do not feel embarrassed when during training you want to award a 4 on a training paper and everyone else wants to give the same paper a 7. I cannot tell you how many times I missed things when I trained on a new question. Know that grading does not begin within your group until everyone feels comfortable with the rubric. And even after beginning grading there are still questions that come up that the Table Leader will help answer.

Another person important to your room, besides your TL, is the room aide. The room aide has the responsibility of keeping piles of exams (folders) in front of you CONSTANTLY. When you complete a folder of exams the aid will remove it. All of these kinds of details are handled so that you are able to be comfortable grading. To keep your energy level high and to maintain maximum grading efficiency there is food! Lots of food! Breakfast, lunch, dinner, two breaks with snacks and evening snacks! And if this year is like past years the food is actually GOOD!!!

Are you asking WHAT HAVE I GOT MYSELF INTO!! ?

Do not worry. This is a lot of information, and there is still more to come, but that can wait until next Tuesday.

Do you have any questions? If so you are welcome to send me a message and I will respond. But contact me before Friday, May 31st. Want to see some of the things that went on last year? Go to the AP Reader web site at my web server (<http://intro.chem.okstate.edu/APReader>). There are pictures there from last year s Reading.

You should have a copy of the 2003 AP Chemistry Exam (at APCentral.collegeboard.com) and I encourage you to look it over. Bring a calculator with you to the Reading. If you end up assigned to question 1, 2 or 3 you will be glad you have one.

Dress is casual so please do not feel like you must dress formally, it often rains, and there will be time for relaxation.

If you enjoy tennis, running, swimming, walking, aerobics, weight lifting, golf or other sports you should bring whatever equipment and/or clothing you require to enjoy your favorite activity. You will only work hard for 7 hours each day, so there is time to enjoy some activities. You will find other Readers who enjoy the same activities you enjoy. I know of tennis players (Peggy Dreher), golfers (Richard Schwenz), and runners (me). Several of us work out at the end of the Reading day. This year facilities are located below Harcombe Food Court. Billiards, bowling, and films are also available. Again check your Information Guide. There are also events/trips etc following the reading each day. Some of those require signing up to guarantee space. Sign-up and other official issues are handled on the 2nd floor in Daniel Hall.

If you bring a computer, Calhoun Courts rooms are equipped with high speed internet access. You will have to pick up a userid and password in the PASS Office room 218 Daniel. If do not computers are also located on the first floor of Daniel. You still need a userid and password.

This is probably enough for now. Get some rest! I ll see you in Clemson on the 3rd.