

AP Biology points are lost to answers that name a process instead of explaining it, and to claims made without the data the question supplied. Every FRQ verb has a fixed meaning, and answering the wrong verb scores nothing. 生物失分多因只写过程名称而不解释, 以及不引用题目数据。

Answering the verb that was asked

IDENTIFY wants a name; DESCRIBE wants characteristics; EXPLAIN wants a cause; JUSTIFY wants a claim supported by the data. Writing an explanation for an IDENTIFY earns the point but wastes minutes; writing a description for an EXPLAIN earns nothing.

Answering ‘predict’ without ‘and explain why’. A prediction with no mechanism is half an answer.

Restating the stem. A sentence that only repeats the question’s own information cannot earn a point.

Writing more than one answer where one was asked. If a wrong alternative is offered alongside a right one, the answer can be marked wrong.

Using data

Making a claim without citing the data. ‘The treatment worked’ earns nothing; ‘growth rose from 12 to 31 mm, a 158% increase’ earns the point.

Ignoring error bars. Overlapping bars mean the difference is probably not significant, and saying so is often the mark.

Confusing the independent with the dependent variable when describing a graph, or plotting them the wrong way round.

Forgetting to name the control group, or describing a control variable and calling it the control.

Content that is routinely muddled

Saying water moves from ‘high to low concentration’ in osmosis. It moves from HIGHER to LOWER WATER POTENTIAL – a dilute to a concentrated solution.

Describing enzymes as ‘used up’ or ‘killed’. They are catalysts, unchanged by the reaction, and denaturation changes the active site’s shape.

Saying the cell ‘makes energy’. Energy is transferred; respiration releases it from glucose.

Confusing mitosis with meiosis outcomes: mitosis gives two identical diploid nuclei, meiosis four genetically distinct haploid cells.

Attributing evolution to organisms ‘adapting’ or ‘trying’. Variation exists first; the environment selects among it.

Applying Hardy-Weinberg without stating its conditions, or confusing $p^2 + 2pq + q^2 = 1$ with $p + q = 1$.

Saying a mutation is always harmful. Most are neutral, and the beneficial minority is what selection acts on.