Student Safety Contract

Whereas, experiment and hands-on investigations are essential to scientific discovery;

Whereas, unsafe procedures may lead to personal injury and damage to property;

Whereas, safety in the classroom and laboratory is the responsibility of every student as well as the teacher:

I, _____, hereby vow to do the following:
(Please print)

Arrive at the laboratory prepared and ready to work in a mature manner;

Await and follow promptly all instructions from the teacher;

Read directions thoroughly before attempting an activity;

Conduct only those activities that are authorized;

Request teacher help if I am unsure how to proceed;

Protect eyes, face, hands, and body while conducting an activity;

Handle glassware, chemicals, burners, heated substances, electrical and computer equipment with care;

Promptly notify the teacher of any accidents or mishaps that occur.

I have read, fully understand, and agree to comply with all safety guidelines distributed by the teacher. I will also abide by any other safety rules and regulations set forth in the classroom and laboratory.

_____ _____
(Student's signature) (Date)

_____ _____
(Parent or Guardian's signature) (Date)

Laboratory Safety Rules: Dos and Don'ts

notes

Do:

- Become familiar with the experiment before coming to the laboratory.
- Follow all laboratory instructions carefully.
- Know all emergency and fire procedures.
- Ask for clarification on any laboratory procedures that are not understood.
- Wear safety glasses or goggles during exercises where glassware, heat, or chemicals are used. Glassware can always fall and shatter sending glass shards into eyes.
- Wear laboratory aprons or coats when instructed to do so.
- Wear protective gloves when instructed to do so.
- Assume all chemicals are toxic and corrosive and act accordingly.
- Read the labels on reagent containers for safety precautions and understand the hazards for all chemicals being used. Have Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) available for all chemicals.
- Stopper or cap all reagent bottles when not in use.
- Keep your work area neat, clean, organized, and clear of clutter.
- Know the location of emergency equipment (first aid kit, eyewash, fire extinguisher, fire blanket, spill containers, emergency exits, and nearest telephone).
- Exercise great caution whenever using heat.
- Keep hair and loose clothing restricted and well away from flames.
- Turn off the gas source when a Bunsen burner is not in use.
- Use proper ventilation and hoods when instructed to do so.
- Handle hot glassware with appropriate clamps or tongs.
- Use extra caution when working with scalpels, knives, glass tubing or other sharp objects.
- Ask for instructor assistance in cleaning up broken glass or chemical spills.
- Discard needles, razor blades, scalpel blades, and other sharp items in a "sharps container."
- Discard cracked or broken glass in a "broken glass container."
- Report all accidents to your instructor immediately.
- Report to your instructor any condition that seems unsafe.
- Keep all laboratory exits clear of debris.
- Put away all items no longer in use.
- Use special care when carrying heavy and expensive equipment such as microscopes.

- Seek first aid assistance for all cuts or other minor injuries.
- Always add acid slowly to water. Never add water to acid.
- Notify your instructor of any symptoms of illness or allergic reactions during laboratory work.
- Place culture materials in biohazard bags as directed by your instructor.
- Clean your lab table and return all cleaned equipment to its proper place.
- Turn off all gas nozzles and water faucets when leaving the laboratory.
- Clean your work area and wash hands before leaving the laboratory.

Do NOT:

- Begin laboratory work until instructed to do so.
- Do anything in the laboratory that is not understood or that you feel is dangerous.
- Engage in any horseplay in the laboratory.
- Perform unauthorized experiments.
- Operate any equipment until you have been instructed in its proper use.
- Work in isolation—a second person should always be nearby. An instructor must always be present during lab.
- Remove any materials from the laboratory unless instructed to do so.
- Touch your face when working with chemicals or biological cultures.
- Let potential hazards make you afraid to participate in laboratory activities.
- Leave a Bunsen burner or other flame source unattended.
- Light a flame source near flammable materials.
- Move a lit Bunsen burner.
- Taste or ingest any chemicals or plant material.
- Handle or consume food or drink in the laboratory.
- Pipet anything by mouth.
- Put chemicals in a sink or in the trash unless instructed to do so.
- Pour chemicals back into dispensing containers.
- Leave a test tube stopper in place when heating test tubes.
- Drink from laboratory glassware.