

Does Technology Help Students Understand Biology in a Lab Setting?

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Abstract: Faculty are asked to incorporate technology in their classrooms. Is this effort paying off in student learning? If so, how? Addressing these questions in an undergraduate introductory biology lab is the goal of this study. In our second semester Introductory Biology course for Majors we've adopted a series of inquiry-based lab exercises with an emphasis on communication. We will be working in two traditional lab rooms, one entirely lacking any computer technology beyond occasionally borrowed laptops and one with a full projection system and weekly use of laptops. I will be comparing student learning and attitudes in these two settings.