To Whom it may Concern:

I was a student in Dr. Mountjoy's section of BIOL 121 in the Spring semester of 2019. I took this course because it fulfilled a requirement for my course of study. Several class options were available to fulfill this requirement, and I felt that cell biology would interest me the most. I was not disappointed by Dr. Mountjoy's BIOL 121.

The setup in this course provided a variety of different opportunities for learning. For the first half of the course, we used the typical paper lab manuals for pre and post-lab activities and preparation. In the second half of the course however, Dr. Mountjoy created an online site with pre-lab information and post-lab activities. This site was an amazing new resource for my learning, as it allowed me to use links to more in-depth information about topics we were covering. I felt that I had a more complete knowledge of the topics that were covered with the online lab manual. Dr. Mountjoy's willingness to innovate allowed me to gain this understanding.

Dr. Mountjoy was an extremely effective instructor in BIOL 121. When we entered class, a presentation was always ready that covered the basics of procedure for the day, making sure that every student in the lab knew what was expected and required of them for the day's activities. Once we began activities, Dr. Mountjoy continued to create an environment conducive to learning, offering tips for completion of the experiments and aiding students if they were unsure of how to proceed. Dr. Mountjoy's presence greatly improved the experience of all students, as she made sure that no one fell behind and missed out on an opportunity for learning.

I feel that BIOL 121 was a well taught, exciting course that allowed me to learn about the basics of cell biology in a hands-on manner. The lab allowed me to apply what I had learned in both lecture and through the variety of learning avenues provided in lab by Dr. Mountjoy. I walked away from this lab with a much greater understanding of cell biology than I had previously, and with an appreciation for professors who will do things a bit differently than is typical for the betterment of their students' experience.

Sincerely,

John Thornhill