Hello all and welcome to San Jose State University and Science 2. As participants in the First Year Experience course, Science 2, you have taken the first step to understanding what it means to be a student at San Jose State University. As we told most of you in orientation, becoming a university student brings with it responsibilities and challenges which set you apart from others. Science 2 exists to prepare you for the road ahead. In addition to fulfilling area E of your general education requirement(s), Science 2 will push you and challenge you to be the best that you can be. We expect the best from you. To be prepared for Science 2 read below.

Being a successful student at SJSU means that you are willing to work hard and be prepared for class. We understand that some of you are serious about your major, others of you are unsure of your major and others of you are not even serious about being in college but just need somewhere to attend after high school. Whatever your situation your first tasks are listed below. Class starts now! This is your 1st test.

Please have the following assignments completed prior the first day of class. Anybody not completing the assignment will be deemed not ready to work or ready for school at the college level.


Begin reading the 1st 3 chapters. The 1st 2 chapters should be read by Monday August 25th. Be prepared to incorporate the readings into your oral presentation (which you will receive instructions about later). Take notes as you read. The note will be important for use later.

2. Write a letter to your future self (assignment included in message)

Science 2 (Fall 2014)
Letter to Your FUTURE Self (120 pts)
due by the start of the first day of main lecture (Monday, Aug 25th at 12:30 pm)

This is your first Science 2 writing assignment. The format for all writing assignments will be very similar. Your letter must be 2 page minimum/3 pages maximum; 12-point Times font; double-spaced; 1 inch margins all around; no title page but with information: your name, activity section number (look it up), and word count at the upper right of page 1

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Write a letter to your future self. Address yourself not us. Your letter should begin:
Dear, your first name and end sincerely, your first and last name, or Love (however you choose to end letters)

Directions: Write a letter to your “future” self where you talk about the following four areas:

Part A
1. Tell us about who you are. For example, you might talk about your background (where were you born, how many siblings, ethnicity, etc.), hopes, dreams, family, hobbies, and if you are the 1st in your family to attend college, etc.

2. Why is it important that you attend college? What do you perceive as the value to you of you getting a college education? What do you think will be the value or benefit to your family and to your community of you obtaining a college education (what difference do you hope to make)? (and elaborate):

3. What are your thoughts and feelings about entering college (are you nervous, scared, anxious, excited, etc.)? AND Did you perceive a benefit in your attending orientation and/or admitted Spartan Day? -if you attended, explain. What was your 1st impression of San Jose State?

Part B
1. Assess your background and readiness for SJSU: Describe your transition from high school or another college to a SJSU.
   a. What do you think college is going to be like at SJSU? (use your imagination/project into the future)
   b. Are you truly ready? Why or why not?

2. Predict your level of academic success this semester and how you plan to achieve it.
   a. How will you survive and be academically successful at SJSU? How hard are you really willing to work? (How many hour a week?)
   b. What needs to happen to make you competitive with a Stanford or Berkeley freshman?
   c. Are you in the English and Math classes you expected to be in and how do you feel about your placement?

3. Are you surprised to have a reading and writing assignment already?

Part C
How or why did you choose (or if undeclared, will choose) your major? Do you think you will keep it? Describe your career goal(s) and how or why you will be successful after SJSU?

Part D
What do you hope an education at SJSU will do for you? AND what advice do you have for yourself? (Do you have habits you already know that you need to break or things you need to improve upon?)

Good luck!
Michael Randle
Science 2