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The Value of Laboratory Exercises in High School Biology Curricula

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Poster Presentation P56

**THE VALUE OF LABORATORY EXERCISES IN HIGH SCHOOL
BIOLOGY CURRICULA**

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The purpose of our study is to demonstrate the value of laboratory experiences in high school biology classrooms. We will be expanding on previous research by Fisher et. al. (1998) who explored the value of the laboratory experience to academic success of high school students. To accomplish our goal we are conducting a weekly after-school experiment club at public semi-suburban high school. Using a sample of twelve high school students, who have volunteered to participate, we will obtain both quantitative and qualitative data. Our goal is to increase both the academic performance of biology students, and their interest in science in general. Preliminary data shows high levels of interest and inquiry among participants in the laboratory exercises. Because research shows that students in the United States are falling behind in the areas of math and science, and the global economy is becoming more dependent on professionals proficient in science and technology, this research has immediate implications for curriculum, instruction, and science education.