Midterm Evaluation- Results and Reforms

I want to thank those of you who completed the midterm evaluation form. I value your feedback, and hope that by implementing some of the following changes I can address your learning needs better.

The following requests were the most frequent to arise:

1. More midterm/final type practice questions.
2. Cover more material.
3. Go deeper into the material.

I am going to address each one as follows:

1. From now on, I will try to include at least 1 difficult/intermediate type question for each lecture on worksheets/other discussion paraphernalia.

2/3. The amount of material and the level at which we cover it is dependent on numerous things. Obviously the time constraint of the class is the biggest one. I have 50 minutes to try and condense 3 hours of material. Each week I have to decide what material to emphasize over other topics. In hopes of covering material that you would like to cover that I do not choose, I am going to open a dropbox assignment each week. Instructions for this assignment are described in a separate document.

What you can do to help:

1. A variety of resources are provided to you for practice with problem solving:
   a. Piazza
   b. Clicker Questions
   c. Book/ MasteringBiology.com
   d. Old Midterms/Finals
   e. Other TA’s worksheets
   f. Each other

If you have exhausted all of these resources, try to come up with variations on the questions. For example, in buffer questions, if the original question added a base to the solution, what would happen if you added an acid? Or, after you have ruled out answer choices, ask yourself, “in what scenario would answer a. have been true?” This will exponentially increase the use you get out of one question. Lastly, if you run through all variants you can think of on a question, come up with completely new questions/try to predict test questions. Bring them to office hours or ask friends if you can’t come up with an answer.

2/3. Come to discussion as prepared as possible. The more you know before coming to discussion, the faster/deeper we can delve into topics.