Science BOSSOs!

A BOSSO is a special outline that ignores many usual outlining rules, but is well suited for science study. A BOSSO is a summary of the material in a section of a textbook or in an article. It helps you focus on — and remember — the most important ideas!

BOSSOs are to be handwritten, unless a special arrangement has been made.

Use section titles with bullet points; do not use a narrative format!

1. Big Picture — What is the overall idea of the section, expressed in one sentence? Summarize the “Big Picture” with one meaningful sentence. For example, you could write, “Matter is the ‘stuff’ that surrounds us, which has mass and takes up space” instead of, “This section is about matter.”

2. Big Ideas — What are the specific important ideas? List the important ideas in the reading using bullet points. The teacher will provide a minimum and maximum allowable number of “Big Ideas.” Decide what is most important, and separate it from the small facts.

3. Cool Details — What are interesting facts related to the Big Ideas? List supporting details and unusual or entertaining facts that are related to the Big Ideas. Use bullet points, and list three to five cool details. The “Cool Details” can come from the assigned reading, or be researched elsewhere.

4. Scientist — Who made the discoveries or applied the knowledge? Who works in this area today? Find one scientist whose work is related to the reading, either the one who is mentioned in the reading, or one you find using another source. Summarize the contributions this scientist made in your own words, and properly attribute the source. This section does not need to be long. It should summarize what the scientist contributed and how they did it — in one paragraph. Do not print out and attach material from the Internet or copy word-for-word. Provide a different scientist for each BOSSO you submit.

5. My Life — How does this material apply to you in your own life? Describe a way this section personally relates to you. Write a brief story explaining how you experienced one of the big ideas first-hand. You can also describe something you saw or read about the topic in the past. Be as specific and thoughtful as possible.

6. Terms — What are the important terms and their definitions? List the vocabulary words in the section along with short, flashcard-length definitions. If it is a textbook section, the terms are the bold vocabulary words. For an article, the teacher may give a list of terms or tell you the number of important terms to find.

7. Illustration — Can one of the Big Ideas be illustrated to make it easier to understand? Choose one of the Big Ideas and draw a diagram that helps explain the main concept. Add labels to produce meaningful diagrams. The illustration must be your own drawing. You can include your drawing as a separate section of your BOSSO, or add your illustrations throughout the other six sections.

Generally, quality handwritten BOSSOs fit onto two pages. BOSSOs are not about length, but rather saying what is important as concisely as possible. Diagrams, pictures, and equations are all appropriate for BOSSOs and can be used throughout, in addition to your Illustration section.
The 7 Things Your BOSSO Must Include

1. Big Picture
   - The overall idea of the reading – in one sentence

2. Big Ideas
   - Use up to the maximum number of Big Ideas (and not more), but you must at least include the ideas the teacher thinks are important

3. Cool Details
   - List 3–5 interesting or unusual facts related to your Big Ideas

4. Scientists
   - Write about somebody new for every BOSSO
   - Include your source

5. My Life
   - Write a brief story explaining how the reading material applies to you in your life

6. Terms
   - List key vocabulary words with short, flashcard-length definitions

7. Illustration
   - Draw something to represent one or more of the Big Ideas, and include all necessary labels