



Virtual Biology Laboratory 3.0 (VBL3) is hosted within the ThomsonNOW system. These instructions are specific to VBL3; for more in-depth help, see *The Student Start Smart Guide for ThomsonNOW* at <http://www.thomsonhighered.com/thomsonnow/student>.

#### Minimum System Requirements

Microsoft® Windows® 2000, XP, Intel® or AMD CPU at 266 MHz; Macintosh® 10.3 and above, G3-G5  
128 MB RAM, Screen resolution 800x600 or higher, 16-bit color, sound card recommended  
For browser, plug-in, and set-up information, visit  
<http://vbl.brookscole.com/VBL3sysReq.html>

### Getting Started

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#### Register your Access Code

1. Go to <http://www.thomsonedu.com>.
2. Click **Create My Account** on the left of the page.
3. Follow the on-screen instructions to enter your information and 14-character access code. You would have purchased this code on a card or from a website (*it is not the same as the Course Key described below*).
4. Upon completion of registration you can use your username and password to sign in.

#### Signing In

1. Go to <http://www.thomsonedu.com>.
2. Click **Sign In** on the left of the page.
3. Enter your username and password.
4. If "Virtual Biology Laboratory" or "Cross Title Product" doesn't automatically appear in the My Bookshelf pulldown, then select it.
5. Click the link to Virtual Biology Laboratory (if there are multiple links, click any link).  
*Macintosh Users, see notes at <http://vbl.brookscole.com/VBL3sysReq.html>*

### Signing Up for a VBL3 Course

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If your instructor has *not* given you a Course Key, then click Course Materials, select a VBL module, click an activity, and skip to the next page in this guide to Step 4 of "Taking an Assignment." *However, if you have been given a Course Key, your instructor wants you to enroll in his or her class; please follow all of the instructions below.*

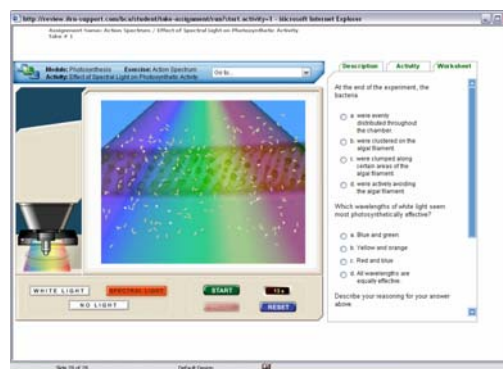
1. On your Home tab, in the Action box, click **Register Using Course Key**.
2. Enter your 14-character Course Key and click **Use this key**.
3. A "Congratulations" confirms your enrollment.

### Taking an Assignment

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1. Once you have signed up for a course, click the **Assignments/Tests** tab and see what activities have been assigned. Note the due date.
  2. Click **Take** to enter an activity.
  3. In the activity pop-up window, click **Start**.
- (Continued on next page)*

4. Read the Introduction. Each activity has the same introduction for all activities, so you only need to read this once.
5. Click **Continue to: . . .** at the bottom of the Introduction to start the activity.
6. When you see a screen similar to the one pictured at right, read the **Description** tab, follow the instructions on the **Activity** tab, then answer the questions on the **Worksheet** tab.
7. Click **Preview and Submit** at the bottom of the Worksheet after you have answered the last questions.
8. A preview window with your answers will pop up for your review. If you want to change your answers, first close this window. When you are satisfied with your answers, to receive credit, do one of the following. (Your instructor should tell you which method you should use; if in doubt, do all three.)
  - Click **Submit** to log your answers electronically.
  - Click **Print** if you would like to print a hardcopy.
  - Click **Email** if your professor wants you to send it that way.
9. Close the Preview window once you have submitted your activity.



## Support

24-hour chat with customer support (like Instant Messaging) at [http://www.thomsonedu.com/support/tech\\_support\\_form.html](http://www.thomsonedu.com/support/tech_support_form.html)