**Making Use of Peer Mentors and Teaching Assistants**

We find peer mentors and teaching assistants to be tremendously helpful either in supporting the reflective writing process or in freeing up time. Students in the course also appreciate the guidance by fellow peer mentors. Here are the roles and responsibilities they play:

Small class implementation model.

 Peer mentors for the SEA-PHAGES classes usually consist of 1-3 students (depending on the size of the class), which have previously taken the course. The peer mentor(s) work with the instructor with the setup of the laboratory and in some cases are the sole prep person for the course or working directly with the instructor to make the media. During class the peer mentor(s) work with students directly interacting, troubleshooting, demonstrating and going through procedural details that students may not fully understand. Peer mentors have also been used to oversee small group instructions or monitor the class while the mentor was reviewing lab notebooks or meeting one on one with students about projects or other course material. Outside of the scheduled laboratory meeting times, peer mentors often hold open lab hours as well for students to continue their work.