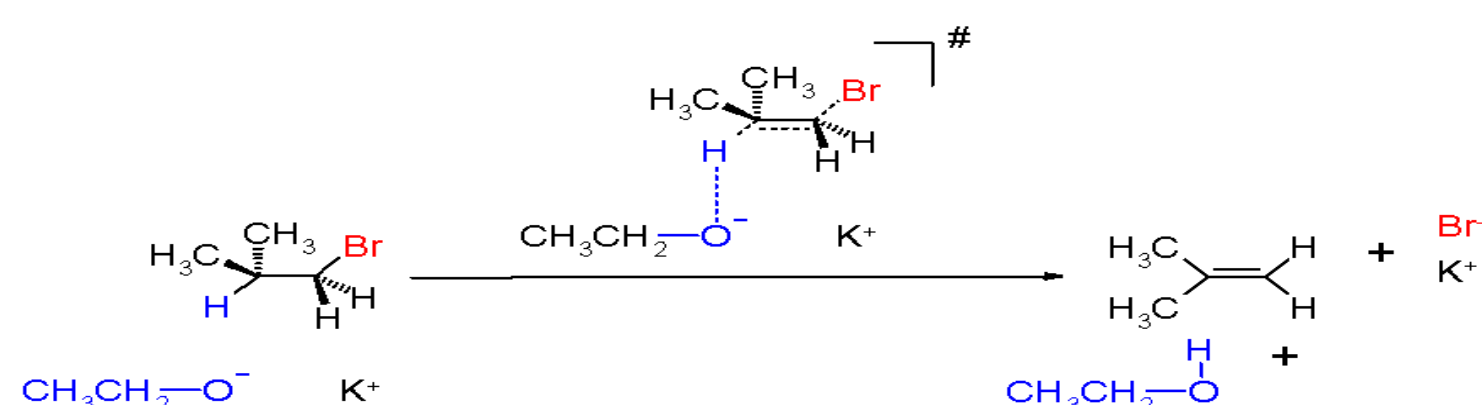


Peer-Led Hours by Arrangement in Organic Chemistry

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Introduction

The abstract nature of Organic Chemistry makes this subject challenging for students. The panic is evident on the first day of class, specially from Pre-Professional students. Predisposition coupled with poor study habits is not a good combination for success. I decided to explore the potential of peer-led study groups utilizing the Hours By Arrangement (HBA) class requirement. The goal was to create plenty of opportunities for student support at a convenient time that would result in increased confidence and better performance.



#*&^^()_ What????
How I am ever going to get this?



Methods

Honors students were assigned one HBA per week. I conducted one HBA per week. HBA were held at the Learning Center. Eight HBA slots were scheduled according to students' schedules. Students earned 4% of their grade by attending one HBA hour per week.

Feedback

Students say:

- ❖ "Very helpful, allowed me to ask questions freely without intimidation."
- ❖ "We learned a lot in a comfortable environment."
- ❖ "HBA were available almost every day. I felt they reinforced what we learned in class."
- ❖ "They help for a cohesive learning environment with other students."



HBA facilitators say:

- ❖ "It encouraged me to get a deeper understanding of the material"
- ❖ "If you want to learn something, teach it!" "I would NOT have done as well without them. Essential. I was able to explain the concepts in a different way to my fellow students, which really helped both me and them."

Rita Sabbadini says:

"The project is fantastic. In groups, students get to know each other and pool their knowledge. One tutor working with a group saves the Learning Center money. Yours (study group facilitators) are not even getting paid!"

Cathy Lipe says:

"The project got the group of students involved in working together. Students got to know one another. They supported each other in more than just chemistry. The Honors students were energized by reading ahead and staying on top of the class."

Results

- ❖ Students knew each other by first name.
- ❖ Students established their own learning community.
- ❖ Students spent countless hours studying at the Learning Center.
- ❖ Students were very comfortable asking questions in class.
- ❖ Help was available everyday.
- ❖ The average GPA rose to 3.46 in Fall of 2009 compared to 2.92 in Fall of 2008.

Conclusions

I learned Organic Chemistry and made a ton of friends to study with.

