Lesson Plan: Biochemistry Taboo

**General Description**
In this activity, students review fundamental concepts of biochemistry in the framework of the popular word game Taboo. This activity exercises students’ abilities to think in different ways or create alternative explanations. This activity is recommended for a learning group session early in the semester as an opportunity to meet peers and establish the importance of their participation in the course.

**Objectives**
1. Students will review some fundamental concepts of biological chemistry.
2. Students will meet and interact with peers in both team-oriented and competition-oriented manners.
3. Students will identify concepts with which they are not familiar.

**Concepts**
Most vocabulary words found in the chemistry chapters of Campbell’s Biology are included in the game. See cards for complete list. Examples are: carbohydrate, protein, polar, biochemistry, chemical reaction, endergonic, energy, carbon, heat, and many others.

**Time**
20-30 minutes

**Prerequisite Skills**
Some familiarity with chemistry and related terms.

**Materials**
Taboo cards – enough sets for each group of three to have a set. Available from the ICE Team.