

TA Tale

Father Professor

Prof. Sherman of the Anthropology Department has a very bright daughter Sara who is a sophomore biology major taking CHEM-271, Organic Chemistry. Around 2:30 pm when her 1 o'clock lab got over, she stopped by her dad's office to say "hello". He was surprised to see her. "Aren't you supposed to be in lab?", he asked. She replied, "Not really. It's a three-hour lab, but we almost always are done before 3." Her dad thought that was strange and told her, "When I took chemistry in college, we had to work hard to finish organic labs in three hours. The TAs had to kick us out. What do you do in your labs?"

After a short interrogation, Prof. Sherman decided that he would investigate. He took out the course catalog and determined when another CHEM-271 lab was meeting. He didn't want to let his daughter know that as a parent he was really angry that his daughter was not getting the full benefit of the courses she was taking. The next day he hung around in the hall way outside the lab until the last student had left. It was 2:45 pm and the lab was scheduled to go until 4. As the TA walked out of the lab, Prof. Sherman asked, "Can I talk with you for a few minutes."

If you were the TA in this class, how would you respond to Prof. Sherman?