# Too informal:

Subject: Hi there!

Hi Mark,

Hey—I heard you mention in class that you do research. that sounds like fun. Do you really get to cut up bugs? I bet they’re guts are totally disgusting. I was thinking that I could stop by after class on Mondays to help you out—is that cool with you?

Cya,

Jayhawk

# Revised email:

### Lab-based disciplines:

Subject: Undergraduate Research Opportunities

Dear Prof. Doe,

I’m very interested in doing undergraduate research in neural development; I think it’s really exciting to understand how different genes work together to build the nervous system. My interest in this area started when I took the BIOL 417 Developmental Biology course for my Biology major, and I am eager to get involved. I saw your lab’s webpage and read an abstract about your recent paper in the journal *Development*. I would love to get involved in your research in any way possible and would be interested in starting research as soon as possible. I’ve attached a copy of a brief resume for your consideration. Please let me know whether there might be an opportunity for me in your lab.

Sincerely,

Curious Jayhawk

### Independent research disciplines:

Subject: Undergraduate Research Opportunities

Dear Dr. Doe,

I’m interested in doing undergraduate research related to the history of the labor movement in the United States, and I’m emailing to ask whether you might be willing to guide me on this project. I took Prof. X’s HIST 129 class last fall, and the section of the class where we covered labor unrest in the 1910s was fascinating to me. I have a few ideas for some potential research topics related to this, and I’d like to meet with a professor to help me narrow my topic and find relevant primary sources. The GTA for my current History class recommended that I talk to you based on your research interest in political movements during the 1920s. Ideally, I’d like to work on this project over the summer, with the aim of developing this project into a senior thesis next year. Please let me know if you would be willing to meet with me to discuss this project further.

Sincerely,

Curious Jayhawk