

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Anatomy and Physiology**  
**Chapter 8 – Muscular System**  
**Assignment on *Rigor Mortis***

In this unit we have spent time discussing the anatomy of skeletal muscle and how a skeletal muscle contraction occurs (sliding filament model).

For this assignment, you are use the knowledge you have learned about these events and explain the physiology of how *rigor mortis* occurs. You are to use the internet to search for information about *rigor mortis* and answer the questions below. Your answers need to combine normal physiology of the muscle with what happens after death occurs and *rigor mortis* sets in.

Please number and respond to the questions below. You will need to keep track of the websites used and cite them at the end of each response. Be sure you write your answers in your own words – Do NOT plagiarize! Send the completed assignment, as an email attachment, to Mrs. Michaelsen at [denisemichaelsen@chetek.k12.wi.us](mailto:denisemichaelsen@chetek.k12.wi.us). Please include your name and the name of the assignment in a header at the top of the page. Thank you.

1. A good definition of *rigor mortis*.
2. A detailed explanation of *rigor mortis* (some interesting facts and background on it, not the physiology).
3. An illustration or diagram which demonstrates some aspect of the topic.
4. A brief explanation of the diagram. (Perhaps a diagram of skeletal muscle contraction with a description of normal muscle contraction physiology and how this works.
5. An outcome summary of what happens when the anatomy and physiology do not work together as they should. (You may combine #4 and #5 together if that works better for you).