Sam Kane

Goal 2.3 Reflection

Evaluate and Interpret Data in Scientific Literature

Learning how to effectively evaluate and interpret data in scientific literature is one of not only the first skills you learn throughout the biology program at longwood, but it’s also one of the most important. In nearly every course I’ve taken throughout my four years, there has either been a semester paper due or a research project conducted that required some form of scientific literature research. Understanding what research has already been done in the area you’re studying / researching is highly important regarding increasing your knowledge on that topic as well as allowing you to complete a new or novel set of research in that field. Scientific literature is something that all students are highly required to use throughout our time at longwood and it most definitely makes us better students and scientists for doing so.

Bio 288 – Within Biology 288, we were required to write a scientific review paper regarding a topic of our choice. The topic I chose to research for my paper was synthetic biology. In order to understand this topic more, I researched synthetic biology by using a significant amount of scientific literature. This was a review paper regarding our topic, so I compiled various sources and picked and chose what specific ideas surrounding synthetic biology I wanted to dive more deeply into. One of the main topics of research I dove into was the humanized robot known as Sophia.

Bio 399 - Within Bio 399- Evolution we were tasked with the creation of a research paper encompassing one area of what causes evolution to occur and I chose extinction. In order to understand the topic and the overarching idea of both evolution and extinction, I had to thoroughly research the topic through the use of scientific literature. Without the use of the amount of scientific literature I sifted through, I would not have learned what I did nor would I have been able to put a research paper together on the topic of Evolution and Extinction.