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Goal 1.6 Reflection

Apply Knowledge of Biology to Contemporary Issues in Society

Biology being the study of life is tied into many different aspects of life. These aspects include contemporary issues in society, with both costs and benefits tied in. Society is using the driver behind the things we do in biology, whether that include an internal process, or a new drug meant to cure a disease. Everything we do in biology always leads to a “what if” or “what now” question, because we’re always looking to the future to see what the next research to be done is and what it could be.

Biology 455 – Throughout Biology 455, we talked a lot about the contemporary issues regarding Invasive Species. Invasive species lead to very differing effects depending on where they’re located and what other species are surrounding them. However, these invasive species aren’t fully understood by the public. Our first instinct is to just eradicate these invasive species, but doing research into them, typically there are indirect effects relating to these invasive species that could be worse in the long run than actually just maintaining them or letting them live their “natural” lives.

Biology 488 – Throughout Bio 488, we have various discussions and oral presentations regarding the topic of “Integrated Biology”. Integrated biology means tying the ideas of what we know about biology to real world situations. One of the topics we went over during this type of discussion included stem cell research and the many benefits and costs it has in relation to societal issues and needs. Stem cells have a large ethical discussion behind based on where they come from and how they’re harvested, but they have been proven to be very useful in terms of cancer and other internal processes research.