Samuel Kane

3.1 Reflection

Students will be able to write effectively in multiple contexts within the discipline

Throughout my undergraduate years of school, I couldn’t even begin to count how many papers I have written both in core classes and other supplemental classes. However, with the large amount of papers I have written, I can confidently say that I have grown as a writer and am much better as a senior than I was a freshman at writing good scientific papers. Writing scientific papers may seem like the most basic of basics when in college as a biology major, but it’s something that you’ll never stop doing if you enter a career in biology as well. I’m thankful for the practice my undergraduate years have provided me with and hope to use some of the strategies I’ve learned in my professional career as well.

Bio 250 – Biology 250 was one of my earliest classes I took as a sophomore biology student. This class provided me with my first experience in writing a scientific paper regarding an experiment I had conducted. Prior to this I had only written research papers regarding other scientists works but now I got to write a paper regarding my very own work. This would be a common theme throughout the next two years as an undergraduate, but this class definitely built the bridge that would continue growing throughout my four years at college.

Bio 288 – Biology 288 was a course that drew upon my knowledge from three previous entry level courses (Bio 120, 250, and 251) and ultimately prepared me for what was to come in junior and senior level biology courses. Within this course, I wrote my first ever review paper. The topic I decided to write about was synthetic biology as it fascinated me. Review papers would become a common theme in courses after this, so I’m thankful I had Bio 288 to prepare me for all of those future papers.

Bio 455 – Within Biology 455, we were given the task of writing a scientific review paper regarding invasive species. For my paper, I wrote on how global warming and climate change are affecting invasive species within the ocean. This paper encompassed quite a few different invasive species and overarching ideas in regard to both invasive species and climate change, but also public opinion on both of these factors. Both climate change and invasive species are typically taken as two very negative things in the scientific world and in the public eye. This review paper helped me understand and appreciate the different contexts with which we write papers in the biology curriculum.