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3.3 Reflection

Students will be able to prepare and present, orally and in writing, to scientists in other disciplines and audiences outside the sciences

Undergraduate students being able to both prepare and present, orally and in writing, to scientists in other disciplines and audiences outside of the sciences is one of the most important critical skills they can learn. While it’s beneficial to write papers and present your research within the discipline, it’s just as beneficial if not more so to present research to the general public and assist in their education on scientific studies. Unfortunately there are many false understandings and disconnects between the scientific community and the general public, and we need to find ways to bridge that gap in order to better the education for all people.

Bio 399 – Within Bio 399 Evolution, one of our big research assignments was to create a presentation regarding evolution and theoretically present it to a non-scientific audience. My project was a children’s book for 4th and 5th grade, educating these young students on what evolution is and what it means for science as a whole. My main focus of this project was not only on teaching these students what evolution itself was, but also giving them a proper lesson in science and hopefully peaking their interests for wanting to learn more and do more in the field of science.

Bio 455 – Within Biology 455, we were tasked with writing a review paper on any topic 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. Throughout writing this paper, if asked, I hope that I’m able to shed light on the actualities and facts regarding these topics as opposed to just basic opinions.

Bio 488 – Within Biology 488, I had to propose a set of research I’d like to complete and write both a paper and make a poster regarding the topic. For my research, I chose building artificial reefs in the Gulf of Mexico. Building artificial reefs in the Gulf of Mexico is important to portray to the public due to the fact the bleaching of reefs is happening where no one can physically see it as it’s below the water. Throughout my research, I believe I have not only become a better scientist but it has improved my knowledge on the subject to the point where I believe I can successfully portray the importance of these reefs to the general public.