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3.4 Reflection

Students will be able to collaborate effectively in a group setting within the discipline

Group projects or presentations are one of the most rewarding, yet most controversial parts of your time as an undergraduate student. Relying on other people to do parts of an assignment can be very hit or miss, as this could make the project 100x easier or 100x more difficult. However, it is a necessary component in learning as a student and becoming ready for real-world situations, as you’ll more than likely constantly be working on group projects in your future career. While group projects aren’t my favorite thing, I much rather have a team of students around me helping me strive for greatness rather than writing just another paper by myself.

Bio 250 – Biology 250 was one of, if not the first, first classes where I had to complete a group project. My group consisted of myself and one other person and we compared the abundance and type of microbes within a retention pond and a river. With this being my first group presentation as an undergraduate student, I didn’t really know what to expect going into it. This was a semester long project, meaning we worked on it nearly every week together. This project was the first of many other successful group projects I would complete as an undergraduate.

Bio 399 – On the flip side of the last section, this group project in Biology 399 is one of my more recent completed projects. With this being a group project completed by senior biology students, it was quite more intense and had much higher expectations than those of which I did freshman and sophomore years. For this project, my group consisted of four students and we had to come up with a general biology presentation to theoretically give to the Farmville public. My group decided to make a children’s book targeted towards 4th and 5th graders. This is a group project that really built my interest in becoming a middle school science teacher.

Bio 473 – Throughout Biomechanics, we were tasked with a semester long research project. For this project, the class was divided evenly into three groups to tackle the three different projects: running, swimming, and flying. Within all of these projects was a mostly novel idea for the group to research and perform an experiment on. My group was the swimming group and we studied the C-start technique in Zebrafish. As a group, we effectively researched background material, designed an experiment, tested the experiment, wrote a scientific journal article on the topic, and built a poster to be presented at the Longwood Undergraduate Research Day poster presentation.