The biology curriculum at Longwood requires students to effectively communicate orally across a broad range of audiences. In Biology 488: Senior Capstone, I was required to give an oral presentation on my research project from the semester. In my Bio 427: Molecular Mechanisms of Disease class, I was also asked to give a student-led discussion presentation.

The presentation I gave in Senior Capstone was about how climate change is affecting the worlds ocean temperatures and why we as scientist should be worried. This project taught me how to effectively communicate the importance climate change and some measure that could take place to help alleviate its effects. In my Bio 427 presentation. I spoke about the tools and the work that is needed to process genetic information using a specific software to a group of high school students. Much like the presentation I gave in Senior Capstone, this presentation taught me how to communicate orally the importance of genetic medication for consumer and medical applications.

Through these classes and presentations, I learned the valuable skill of communicating orally in multiple contexts within the discipline of biology. I found it challenging to discuss such upper level challenges in the biology field with high school seniors, but it was a wonderful experience. I felt that my public speaking has definitely gotten much better since my freshman year at Longwood.