Goal 1.5 Paper

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Demonstrate knowledge of the applications of biology in one or more real issues in society

When people outside the science community think about the topic of biology, they do not realize just how involved biology is with every aspect of life. When they look at a tree all the see is a tree, they do not think about all the little differentiated cells that make up the tree or all the respiratory and photosynthetic process that the tree is performing in real time. However, students and people in the biology realm see the smaller components of each and every cell, organism, community, population, and ecosystem, and we also see how those smaller components work together and create the bigger picture. Through my years at Longwood, a key aspect in presenting research and findings has been how to present to other within the science and non-science community. The classes I took that really highlighted this was my sophomore seminar, biology 288, and my internship I am currently doing.

Biology 288 is one of the highlight classes for the new curriculum. In this class we really worked on our professionalism within biology. Along with working on creating professional documents, such as a resume and cover letter, we also worked on writing in different applications of biology. In most classes the only format of writing that we did was writing scientific papers that had an intro, methods, results, and conclusion; however, in this class we learned about the various types of how to present research and we were able to get experience with that. Our first format that we talked about was presenting to a general audience. With this assignment we were able to take the topic of our semester project and use it to write a short paper that would convey our topic to an audience that was unfamiliar with the scientific topic. In this paper, titled “bigger fish to fry”, you can see that the vocabulary usage and even the title are very simple and easy to understand. The paper is able to interest an audience that might not have been intrigue before and also able to help them easily read and understand the topic. Another format that we learned about was writing review articles, in which you use a compilation of other research articles and use them to write about the topic. As you can see below, we used the same topic as the other papers and we were able to research and make analyses our own and then write a paper to convey our findings. This paper is a little more complex than the general audience paper but is still not as lengthy and complex as a research paper. These assignments really helped me understand how to condense complex information and how to properly report findings based on audience.

These assignments help me to grow my skills in communication to others, which has helped me in my internship. At my internship with Bear Creek Lake State Park, I have performed several programs, including things such as touch table, archery, canoeing, water world, the big idea, and many others. During these programs I am talking to a broad range of audience, some are little kids, while others are adults, some are very well educated while some are not. With the experience and skills, I gained in biology 288 I have been able to understand that each audience is different; so how I present the program is going to be contingent on the people in the audience.

With the newly found perspective in bio 288 and the real-world application of it in my internship, I have found how to properly present biological information and apply it to the real world and the issues within it. These experiences will only help me to gain more knowledge and will help me to bridge biology and the real-world.