Goal 3.4 Reflection

In the scientific community, research is rarely done by one person only. Research can be conducted by colleagues and students. These collaborations are important because the best work can come from a group of people rather than one person working really hard. Group work can be stressful and hard for any student or scientist to undergo. Members can be very opinionated, and some members don’t get along. The worst outcome of group work is splitting the work. Some members will work very hard and others will slack off; this is why it is so important to pick a group that works well together.

The first article listed is a report that was written between my group and I on sources and data collected for a paper on plastic. We had to collectively agree what was important to include in the paper, and then split up the workload between the members. Each member was assigned a section of the report and had to find sources and information that was valuable to the project. Luckily for me our group worked efficiently and well together.

The second article listed is a presentation on global mammal extinctions. There were very in-depth specifications that were asked of us for this project. We had to evenly distribute the work between the members as before, but this time not everything was rainbows and butterflies. My group members did not contribute any work to the presentation until thirty minutes before it was due. I ended up having to rush and fill in as much possible information to keep it professional and adequate to the standards presented to us. The group members also did not practice their slides and messed up greatly on the presentation. This is an issue that can rise in any group, and it taught me to choose wiser when it comes to partners.

The last article listed is a presentation on the comparisons of periphyton between two water ways. This presentation was very similar to the second article listed. It had a lot of parameters listed. The group for this presentation worked amazingly together. This was one of the easiest group projects I’ve ever had to do. It was easy because our team worked so well together.

Group work is essential to productive and well produced research. These experiences not only taught me to hold my team accountable, but to also listen to all members opinions. Some members might have great ideas or solutions, but you won’t hear them unless you allow them to voice them. I feel that if I have to do group work in my future career, I will be prepared for any obstacle the group might throw at me.