Goal 1.1 Reflection

During my time at Longwood University I have spent four consecutive years learning about major principles of biology. These principles include ecology and evolution, cellular and molecular biology, anatomy and physiology, and numerous more disciplines. Every class holds its own standards of importance, whether they interest me or not, they are beneficial and informational. My first biology class at Longwood was Biology 120, this class served as the introductory biology class that discussed every minuet and basic level of biology. I did not enjoy this class because I felt it was very dumbed down and too simplistic, but the lab sparked a new interest for me. The lab included different tests on plant biology and analyzed chemical compounds that can flourish or kill the plants. Though our results of the experiment were not positive, this lab taught me many practical skills that are needed as a scientist. I learned how to design an experiment from scratch, practice safe lab procedures, write a lab report, work effectively with a team, and conduct daily analysis of the specimen at hand.

During this class I was also expected to create a PowerPoint relating to our research project of “The Effects of Sprite on Plant Growth.” This was possibly one of the worst PowerPoints I’ve ever done while being at Longwood. Though it was not an appealing PowerPoint, it still taught me a lot. This was the very first presentation that I had to give at Longwood, I had no clue what I was doing, and I didn’t know what was expected of me. This class taught me the essentials that I would need to give a well-structured and informational PowerPoint on my findings as a scientist. Since this presentation, I have continually gone back to look at the comments and implement the criticisms to my future presentations.

The last article is also a PowerPoint that I had to do for my Ichthyology class. This was a presentation that I was not familiar with. He wanted very dulled down slides, plain backgrounds, and visual appeal. I was so used to putting as much information on the slides as possible, but this class required you to know the information by heart. I also struggled with this presentation as well because my partner did not help at all. I learned a valuable lesson as a scientist, always pick your colleagues wisely. This class taught me how to include different disciplines and relate them all into one topic, the study of fish.

From not only these classes, but multiple others like it I was able to put full faith and my entire focus on the tasks at hand. These tasks encompassed the different principles of biology and because of it I was able to take other biological disciplines. Throughout these classes I have also learned which disciplines I do and do not like. For instance, I loved animal behavior and conservation, but I did not enjoy modern genetics or ecology and evolution. Though I did not enjoy these principles I do know that they have a great importance. Every scientist needs to know these disciplines and be somewhat proficient in them in order to be well-rounded. That is one of the most important things that I have learned from being at Longwood.

These major principles have helped me with my future career as well. I now know which path and field I want to take after graduation. It allowed me to learn first-hand what I was good at and what I struggled in. Thanks to this learning curb, I know that I want to pursue a career in conservation.