

2.1 Goals

Reflection

One of the most important aspects of a college biology student is labs. In most biology and chemistry classes labs are crucial and involve special techniques. For example, PCR, Gel electrophoresis, and pipetting. Although those skills are incredibly useful for all labs, being able to evaluate, interpret and apply an experimental design from experiments is most important. Every lab I have been a part of has required a lab notebook lab paper and most of the time both. These requirements help students to interpret conclusions from their experiments.

During my first semester of college, I was able to conduct my first experiment. In this experiment, my group and I decided to test microbial activity on Longwood's traditional touched items. We swabbed each surface and collected samples on plates. As a student, I learned the most effective way to collect data and interpret my data through writing. Being able to evaluate and interpret data from experiments is important because our purpose is to be able to relay information in an effective way for a general audience. The purpose is to write in a way that anyone can interpret and replicate the said experiment.

Another important aspect of evaluating experimental data is through results. Here a student is able to gather information and conclude important information from the experiment. This is where a student is able to inform the reader if their experiment was successful for replication. For my genetics class, my lab partner and I had to interpret our data and evaluate our results. Here we found that there was a complication in our experiment and we could not conclude any information about the results. This is important to relay to the reader and conclude that further testing needs to be done.

During my senior year, I was able to be involved in an organic chemistry class semester project. My partner and I were able to conduct lab procedures, interpret our data into results, and conclude with a discussion. These skills are important for future experiences because as a scientist I will be able to efficiently relay appropriate information due to my past experiences in the lab.