

## 2.3 Goal

### Reflection

I cannot express how many papers I have had to read for the countless papers I have written. Most of my papers involve at least 5 primary literature sources and one of my papers had upwards of 40 citations. The reason for literature is to properly cite credible sources. It is for the need to back up information with data already tested. It is not sensible to make claims without any research. Without any background on the matter who's to say the information is made up. Because of this, it is required to have credible sources to back up scientific claims. Since the beginning of college, students have learned to evaluate and interpret data in scientific literature.

For one of my biology classes I had to find 4 primary literature sources and write a short synopsis. This required me to interpret data in scientific literature and properly concise the information needed for to understand the paper with little words. In most papers this would be considered an abstract. This step is important for students because being able to interpret scientific literature means you can relate and compare to other literature and make conclusions. My professor wanted to make sure that the sources I was able to find related to the paper we were writing for class. The skill of being able to find and evaluate data has become increasingly easier with practice.

One of the first scientific papers that I wrote involved the background on axolotl limb regeneration and relating it to human limb regeneration. For me to relate both subjects I need scientific proof and background on the regeneration of limbs on salamanders. It's important as a scientist to use credible sources so the reader is informed on the most current information.

One of my favorite papers I ever wrote was in my organic chemistry class. This paper related parabens to carcinogenic activity. Although, I did not have many sources cited, I needed to have credible scientific literature. This is because I had to relate my research with previous research to evaluate if mine was successful. I am positive that in the future I will need to interpret and evaluate many papers, even for my enjoyment. Because of experiences at Longwood I am confident to say I can successfully evaluate and interpret data in scientific literature.