Goal 1.4

Reflection

As a biology major, I have come to appreciate different aspects of biology like organisms. In the course of my studies, I have looked at various organisms like periphyton and the function of the human body. Learning and observing these organisms is an important aspect of being a biology major. Being able to understand these organisms and apply them to everyday life is the main goal as well as analyzing and applying the major principles of organismal biology.

In my ecology and evolution class, I was able to compare periphyton in the Appomattox River and Buffalo Creek. I found that the population and diversity of periphyton can be determined by temperature, oxygen, light, and flow location. We wanted to observe the effects on aquatic life periphyton had in Prince Edward County. By observing their effect, we can observe their function, behavior, and form. This has made me develop an interest in studying different organisms to see their different effect on aquatic life.

Comparing organisms like bacteria is something I have done in many classes including microbiology. For this paper, we compared tabletop cleaners to observed if the bacteria were efficiently killed. We conducted an experiment where we wiped down various corners of the table with Escherichia coli. Not all of the tabletop cleaners were effective at their job and it has made me realize these companies need to be testing their products against different bacteria and environments.

As someone who is most interested in anatomy, learning about the function of the eyes was quite interesting. In my vertebrate morphology class, I wrote a short essay on eyes and their function of how they see color. I love that I can see color and relay how and why I can scientifically.

Overall I've had many classes was I was able to understand the principles of organismal biology to now being able to analyze and apply them as well. Being able to observe different organisms has been very interesting and has sparked an interest in this topic that I look forward to researching.