

Goal 1.3

Reflection

I have always been thoroughly fascinated with evolution and ecology. How millions of years ago species had specific characteristics that we do not have today. Our question as a scientist is why do we not have them and why do we have new characteristics that species millions of years ago did not have. This is one of the topics that has been studied intently for the past century. Luckily for me, I was able to do research as a scientist myself under this topic.

In my sophomore year, I took a course called the sophomore seminar. This class involved preparing for my future courses, careers, interviews, and success as a student. In doing that I was able to write a general audience paper different from my normal scientific writing. This allowed me to write scientifically for readers who are not knowledgeable in this subject matter. I was very interested in the regrowth of axolotl limbs. They have an incredible regrowth speed and process. What is more interesting to me is that axolotl are different than other salamanders with their limb regrowth.

In-between my junior year and senior year I was able to take an evolution course. I have always been interested in evolution and its process throughout history. At the end of the course, students were instructed to write a paper and were able to choose among 6 different topics. I chose to write about understanding the relationship between Theropods and modern birds. I absolutely loved writing this paper and made me realize I am mesmerized by dinosaurs and their relation to modern animals. There is a great amount of evidence towards how birds are closely related to Theropods and research is still being done to this day.

Overall my writing skills have greatly improved and I am confidently able to apply the major principles of ecology and evolution. I am confident in my skills to relay information to any audience as well as writing in a scientific manner. Like with most things in life there is always room for improvement.