

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 and how they are different than other salamanders as well as applying their technique to human limb regeneration. Through my research, I was able to apply major principles of biology to evolution and ecology. Using cell theory and evolution theory I compared axolotl regeneration to normal human skin regeneration. I was able to compare and contrast the theories between different species.

In-between my junior year and senior year I was able to take an evolution course. At the end of the course, I chose to write about understanding the relationship between theropods and modern birds. I was able to use the evolution theory to relate modern birds to theropods, a carnivorous dinosaur who are typically bipedal. I analyzed the evolution of

theropods through different theories and aspects. From analyzing I was able to apply the major principles of evolution to said theories.

Overall my writing skills have greatly improved and I am confidently able to apply the major principles of ecology and evolution. These skills are important because not only is being able to analyze and apply the principles important, being able to apply different theories like evolution and ecology are as important. Scientists nowadays have to rely on these skills for their analysis of 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.