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Goal 2.2 Reflection

In the biological sciences it is extremely important to understand how to analyze data quantitatively, and what this means is to provide figures that demonstrate pictorially what the writing is saying. While reading any scientific articles, figures are always present and helpful. I have developed that skill over the past four years and that is what my three artifacts depict. The first one is a results section from biology 120, the second is assessing the wooly worms and natural selection and the third is looking at the effectiveness of the flu vaccine using words as well as figures in biology 305. Looking over all of these documents I can see the importance of figures in all of scientific writing. My ability to use figures effectively to describe what is going on in the paper has significantly increased over my four years here at Longwood University, but like anything there is always room to grow.

As I look back on all of these artifacts, many of the figures look the same, the difference is their complexity. In my earlier years at Longwood a lot of the material I worked with was extremely simplistic and allowed me to focus more on the material I was turning in than being stressed out by the complexity of the experiment. I liked that set-up because it allowed me to gain in depth knowledge of what figures should look like, in my later years I was given harder experiments and expected to know how to carry them out and complete figures. With this process I was able to become more confident with them as experiments increased and complexity as well as figures.

Going forward, I feel confident that I would be able to complete figures and the experiment successfully. I am appreciative of this process and the way that it was set-up because it allowed me to continually become an expert at this skill.