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Bio 496

**Reflection on Research Experience**

Going into this semester my only expectation for research was to get a better understanding of what goes on in a research lab. However, leaving this semester what I got out of this experience was so much more. I was surprised to learn that so much of what professors are teaching us in labs and lectures can go into practical experiences in a laboratory setting. It surprised how titrations that I learned in Organic Chemistry were relevant with what we were doing in lab! During this lab experience I realized that doing outdoor research is definitely something that interests me. It’s interesting to see how not only humans but also other species and organisms affect our environment.

I learned so much in this experience and I do believe it will directly benefit me in whatever career path I choose to go into. I learned how to communicate with others. I’m never going to be working in an environment with people that I get along with all the time. So it was great to be in a research lab with so many personalities and to get practice on how to handle and react to them. I learned how to independent with my work. In class you are more subjected to a strict guideline of what exactly is expected of you. Whereas, in research you have to be willing to take initiative to complete the tasks needed. Otherwise, it won’t get done. I think the most important thing I learned this semester would be how to adapt when things weren’t necessarily going the way we expected in research. We had troubles with an online database that was supposed to help us document our research but half of us couldn’t do anything with it for the longest time. But, as a group we worked together and didn’t let that us affect how we completed our tasks.