

Aniah Matthews
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Sulkosky
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Over the course of this semester we as students were led through a course in which it was labor based. This for me was a very different experience than the normal very structured science classes I have been taking for my major which is biology. The concept of labor based grading is very new to me and although I did thoroughly enjoy the freedom that it gave students, it was very challenging for me at times, where the guidelines seemed almost too vague for my comfortability. Toward the end of the semester it got much easier as we were able to allow ourselves the true freedom of being able to choose what we want to complete our projects on while still putting in the effort and time to make sure it was to our own standard and this is the biggest thing I have learned this semester. Many of the time in classes for biology majors there is one right way to do things and it has to be to the utmost standard exceeding all expectations, and this can cause students to be kept in a box and not truly explore the world of science. This class showed me that it is okay to ask questions and not always know the answer right away. Along with this was the revisions that we did virtually the entire semester. These revisions allowed me to revisit papers that I have written in the past and look at them with fresh eyes. This helped me to become a better writer as I have always had trouble looking at my work and revising something I have written recently. Not only was I able to see problems in my writing that I have never seen before, the papers I chose to revise sparked a new interest in some of the topics and has opened the door for more exploration in these subjects that are more self motivated this time.

This semester has been very enjoyable for me and I am very grateful to have been able to take this class and learn new things about not only writing, but myself included. I look forward

to continuing research on topics that have sparked my interest and continuing on the journey of graduating from Howard with a great experience.