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BIOL 294

Reflection #2

At this point in our Service-Learning Project, I feel better about our presentation than I did when our group first got together. We seem a bit more cohesive at this point, and we're not waiting until the last minute to get together so that this project works well. The "dress rehearsal" we had reflected this, and I feel like we did a pretty good job working together to make sure our information was direct and educational. There were a few stumbling blocks, but we have plans to go through those and fix some of the overwhelming information or change a few words to make it more understandable to our young audience. I think this is the most important part, because we don't want to overwhelm the audience with information, and I want this to be fun for the kids, especially since this is probably more for an afterschool club than a during-school class.

I also feel that the "dress rehearsal" was a great asset because it allowed us to run through the presentation with an outsider looking in, so we were bound to get feedback about what could be fixed. It also allowed us to test out the few questions within the presentation and make sure that we aren't going too deep into the information available. One of the most helpful comments from our teacher, in my opinion, was to not put our full names on our presentation. Up to that point, I hadn't even thought about the fact that this is a public presentation and making sure I keep myself as private as possible is important. Another point made was to make sure the information wasn't too hard to understand, and that making a comparison to something our audience would know was a good idea. One of my group members made a connection between a DNA helix's size and that of a human hair, and it was both interesting and a good way to bring the audience in and to help them connect with our given information.

I do, however, wish we had spent a bit more time figuring out who would say what information, because not knowing which order the group would speak in threw me off a bit. It also seemed to make our presentation a little stilted, but I believe that could also be due to a lack of practice. Some of it, too, may be from lack of experience, because I know from personal experience how difficult public speaking and presentations can be, even for those who have some practice with it. Overall, I believe we, as a group, did a good job with both our information and how it was presented, and that we will be ready to present as well as possible on our scheduled day.