

Taryn Johnson

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BIOL294

Reflection #3

This project has been a whirlwind from the start, but I feel like my group built up a wonderful working relationship once we all got together. Getting together was difficult, because everyone had work or other classes to attend to, but we were able to work together to get the presentation written up, and we even had time to practice again before our presentation. Unfortunately, we were unable to present as no one had shown up, which did disappoint me a bit because I was quite excited to present our information to the kids. I had hoped that they would have left the presentation with a better understanding of why we cannot see a DNA double-helix, but I was able to tell my brother – who is about the same age – about it, so that was interesting.

I think this presentation, beyond helping to cement some presentation skills, allowed me to take a deeper look into why the DNA is a double helix, and what scientific breakthroughs we have made to allow us to actually see the helix itself. Of course, the information in the presentation was not as in-depth as the research I put into finding my information, but it still helped me to understand it well. It was easier to make sure I knew what I needed to talk about in depth, because I needed to make sure I was explaining it correctly. My group members also had some interesting tidbits they shared, like the fact that DNA is 40,000 times smaller than a strand of hair, which actually helped with my own visualization of a DNA strand.

This project was definitely a learning experience for me because it made sure that I knew what I was talking about. There's no better way to broaden information than knowing it by heart. I'm an artist in my spare time, and that's the best way to find a specific style, because if you can accurately draw a human being, you can warp the shapes slightly to make it more personal. I think the act of teaching someone information you already know helps you to understand it better and helps to make sure you really know what you're talking about, because there's always going to be someone who comes up behind you and double checks your information. If you know what you're talking about, if you know what you're presenting in detail, you're less likely to miss information. I feel like this assignment gave me and my group the opportunity to learn that lesson in a controlled environment, where we could go back and fix it if necessary. It's a skill I'm sure I will use a lot in my post-graduation career.