

## **BIOLOGY 620: Reflections on the year**

This term, we are presented with yet another opportunity to reflect on our process and to appreciate what we have learned and how we have grown...keep the dialogue from your winter reflection going.

Reflect on your growth as an **EXPERIMENTALIST, PROBLEM-SOLVER** and **SCHOLAR**. Compose an essay, in which you address the following:

***In your research proposal, you crafted a general forecast of your experimental goals. While engaging in the bench work necessary to realize these goals, you naturally encountered “real life” obstacles to instant success.***

- As you worked to get your model system and experiments up and running, what surprised you?
- Was there any element of your work that was either easier or more difficult than you had imagined?
- Was there an element that was more gratifying than you expected? What made it so?

***In what way did you need to think nimbly, perhaps changing your plans during an experiment, or creatively, to imagine a solution to an unforeseen challenge?***

***Carefully re-read your reflection on your growth during the fall term and continue the dialogue...***

- Are there aspects of your growth from the fall that you have seen yourself continue throughout the year?
- Where are you thriving - In your written work? Your ability to discuss your work orally, in conversation? Experimentation?
- What new conflicts/obstacles have you encountered?
- What did you learn about your process (or yourself) or how did you grow along the way?
- What has made you the most proud of yourself this year?
- Is there a notable experience or set of experiences in the lab (vignettes) you might share that can serve as an exemplar of this growth? Photos from the lab?
- Which of the following specific aspects of your research experience contributed the biggest boosts to your growth as a scholar?

- Formation of a novel question
- Planning your approach / designing experiments
- Collecting data
- Revising your question or experimental approach
- Interpreting your findings
- Authorship( how your work fits into existing knowledge)
- Presentation / sharing your work with others

***In what way do you hope to continue improving your THINKING and SCHOLARLY PROCESS, as you move on from Andover?***

- What do you hope to take with you from your experiences this year in the lab?
- If you could jot down some “notes to self” - that you could pull out next year when you encounter a challenge - what would your notes say?
- Put these notes to work! Record a short video in which you convey this information to yourself as effectively as possible. Be thoughtful, creative and inspired! It’s all for your own benefit!