

Reflective essay encapsulating my thirst and motivation for studying and acquiring useful knowledge in biology

To me, biology opens the door to multiple opportunities, allowing us to engage with and better understand how organisms, cells as well as flora and fauna function through vast experimentation and observation. How different species, breeds, nature have adapted over the decades to increase their chances of survival in even the most intense, unexpected of areas never fail to astound me. As a child, my initial interest in biology grew from watching wildlife documentaries such as the 'Blue Planet' and the 'National Geographic' with family. I remember being especially captivated by the natural habitat of differing species and their mutual interactions in their ecosystem. Throughout, I learnt loads of fascinating details regarding their lifestyle patterns, behaviours yet I feel like I've just barely scratched the surface of it all. There is just so much to discover and delve deeper on them at a much wider scale.

This roused up a deep interest in me to expand my knowledge by becoming eager and more open minded in questioning my viewpoints, assumptions I made. Previously, I had a plethora of unanswered questions circulating in my mind such as why some animals were instinctively prone to become independent at a young age whilst others relied more on parental guidance growing up, whether the portrayal of animals on media i.e. penguins and other animals diverged massively from real life. But now, I am slowly learning to find answers to them by researching and asking others.

The concept of animal extinction, natural selection had always been intriguing to me particularly when we were studying food webs, climate change at my high school biology class. At one point, our class discussions revolved around how strained the food supply chain will become if there was a huge deterioration or extinction in a species. After much debate, we settled collectively on the theorized conclusion that it would probably instigate a huge domino effect whereby other species may also resultantly go extinct due to a scarcity of food and other resources. Henceforth it will be likely to see the subsequent battles amongst predators and prey increasing as each try to one-up each other as if it was their last fight for survival. This experience made me realize how exciting it was to share ideas, gain insight through attentively listening to different perspectives my peers bring as my teachers always used to comment on what a quiet and studious student I was.

Nowadays, food security is very important for extending the lives of many species and humanity as changes in the immediate environment may threaten them to extinction as more live with hunger and malnutrition since some crops may no longer grow due to sudden temperature changes. Thankfully, the invention of genetically modified (GM) crops have help eased the pressure. Thus, I believe that learning biology potentially allows us to further explore our passions and find solutions to problems by utilizing our practical skills to critically analyse the root cause behind issues.

Since I am currently studying two majors (immunology & pathology, nutrition science) strongly interlinked to biology in my Bachelor of Science degree, I think that the knowledge and skillsets I would gain from learning biology at university would indefinitely benefit me in the long run to perhaps become a better nutritionist or dietitian in the future. This is because these two majors require a solid understanding of human physiology, biochemical processes that occur in the body which are only taught specifically in biology. Additionally, the invaluable practical skills learnt from biology such as

operating and adjusting microscopes to view diverse cells in different magnification qualities, dissection, problem solving, data processing and analysis should not be overlooked as they might bring better solutions to futuristic problems. Moreover, there is a huge degree of flexibility in the specialization areas biology offers which gives more options for me to explore where my interests lie when I am uncertain.

Alongside, the skillsets (graduate qualities) I would love to strengthen and consolidate include the ability to communicate succinctly and the skill to integrate and synthesis multiple key points and practices together. I often feel like it's far too easy to go on a tangent whenever I get nervous or excited with many great ideas on my head. Sometimes, I would just start to unintentionally deviate from the main point at hand. I think I need to work more on giving myself time to formulating my ideas fully first before expressing them. It could be a major turn-off if my ideas are not expressed clearly to clients as they will eventually get irritated.