

**Resources – Reflective essay:** The reflective essay assignment given to Wells College students during the last lab, Fall 2005.

### **Final Reflection**

As another semester comes to an end, it is a good time to reflect on your experiences and your learning. To summarize your experiences in this course, I would like you to write up a 1-5 page paper about your experiences in this class. It will count as one lab grade, but I am not really grading the content, just if you put effort into it.

It should address three main areas:

1. **Your newly acquired knowledge of ecology.** Think back to when you started this course, think about what you knew about ecology. Describe what you learned and what you'd still like to learn. This section should describe how your ideas about 1 or 2 topics changed as a result of taking this course. Were they topics you misunderstood previously that you feel you understand better now? Were they topics that you felt were not relevant to your life that you are glad you learned more about? How has learning about these topics affected your thinking about ecology or science in general?
2. **Newly acquired knowledge about you as a learner.** This section should describe your experiences as a student in this course. What did you enjoy most about this course and what would you rather forget? Describe at least 2 specific class activities, labs or lectures that you liked and ones you did not like, and why. What advice would you give a student in BIOL 213 next year? What did you do well as a student in this course? What advice will you give yourself as you take on other courses?

3. **Personal reflection.** This section should address your personal experiences in the course. What did you learn about yourself as a person? If you could look at yourself through my eyes, what would you want me to know about your growth as a person, a student and an intellectual over the course of the semester? What grade do you think you deserve and why? Describe one challenge you faced in this course and how you handled it (did you overcome it? How? If not, why not?)