

## Remarks from a Bio 500 student about Research

One valuable skill that I have gained from research is simply the ability to efficiently read primary literature. I appreciate this skill for the ways that it not only instills a reader with a wealth of factual knowledge, but also allows one to appreciate the scientific process itself by painting a picture of the researcher's reasoning and creativity within every experiment. Though incredibly dense, scientific primary literature can be effectively unpacked through practice that comes only from continually reading with a purpose. I believe that research provides one of the best avenues to become introduced to and maintain this skill.

Yet aside from these practical implications, participating in research as an undergrad has been an incredible growth process. I have gained much through the mistakes I had been allowed to make and the responsibility I had been trusted to maintain. Independent research has taught me valuable lessons on how to be a mature member of a scientific team, where the interconnectivity of all lab processes makes it so that no single mistake or problem is wholly an individual's own but is always shared. In addition, research has taught me how to be a colleague within an academic family, where individuals from all walks of life connect through science and celebrate in one another's successes. I would recommend that research be a part of any student's academic training for all these reasons, and more. It has been a great privilege to be given this opportunity during my time at WashU.